free!

Colorado Springs Independent

I'll show you mine if you show me yours

Should she see what he's making, and vice versa? Lilly Ledbetter says yes 15

By Kirsten Akens

Chad Crowe

Indy InSider inside

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Colorado Springs' largest locally owned media company.
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InSider

It's here. The *Indy*'s annual guide to all things Springs. Whether you're looking for *the* places to play, dine, dance, shop or drink, we've got you covered — east to west, north to south, and all the nooks and crannies hidden in between. Hold on to this one; it'll keep you going year-round.

insert

News:
Take the money and run

City Attorney Pat Kelly was the first to go, then Police Chief Richard Myers, who was followed by Human Resources Director Ann Crossey, Budget Director Lisa Bigelow and Economic Vitality Chief Steve Cox. Mayor Steve Bach's severance payouts, plus benefits, for these five "retirees"? $700,650.

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Fine Print:
Of gods and minds

To Dr. Robert Sapolsky, the question of religion isn't whether "God" or gods exist. It's more along the lines of, as he says, "How would a stridently atheistic scientist use neurobiology to make sense out of religion?"

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On the Cover
Illustration by Chad Crowe.

UpComing

It's finally springtime, and in celebration of growing season, we bring you another issue of ***ReLeaf***. The April 17 *Independent* will include the next rendition of our medical marijuana center and resource listings, along with a potluck of stories for you to hash over.

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Garden of the Goods

You ARE A Winner!

Hank Williams: *Lost Highway* Pair of tickets
Theresa Jordan

King Pin Bowling Family 4-Pack
Sophia Lujan

The Doobie Brothers Pair of tickets
Skye Angioletti

SPANK! *The Fifty Shades Parody* Pair of tickets
Aly Tygres

Be A Winner!

Food-a-Palooza is back! The *Indy*Blast is bursting with gift cards to local restaurants this week. Dig in (at csindy.com) and win.

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SliceOfLife

Bradley Flora

Before becoming a bushy riot of nearly flaming yellow, these forsythia buds in a Pueblo yard suffer the same wait for the summer sun that we all do.

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Letters

Editor, 235 S. Nevada Ave., CS, CO 80903 • e-mail: letters@csindy.com

If your comments are mailed or e-mailed to us, we'll consider them for publication — unless you request otherwise. Please include your name, city of residence and a daytime phone number for verification.

A question of motive

Father Bill Carmody wrote a letter ("Adoptions on the line," March 27) in which he denounced the recent civil unions bill, which he said will end "religious liberty" due to 1) the enhanced rights afforded to gay citizens by the bill and 2) the likely demise of Catholic Charities' adoption services due to their inability to continue discriminating against gay couples.

I would like to point out something to the good Father about religious liberty: Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr. famously said, "The right to swing my fist ends where the other man's nose begins." In the same way, one's right to religious liberty extends only to the point where it infringes on others' rights. Religious liberty gives one the freedom to believe as one chooses, not a license to dictate to everyone else how to conduct their lives.

If all people are afforded the same rights and protections, in what way is the Catholic Church's religious liberty infringed? Their disapproval of same-sex unions can continue, if they wish, and they won't be forced to perform any ceremonies against their will. So what's the problem?

And if Catholic Charities terminates their adoption services due to the civil unions bill, as Father Carmody predicts, I can't help but wonder what the purpose of their adoption service is: to find loving homes for children who need them, or to ensure that as many children as possible are indoctrinated with Catholic dogma? Is their aim to assist children and families, or to fill their pews — and overflow their coffers? I guess we'll find out.

— Fred Kormos
Colorado Springs

What's the problem?

Wow, Fr. Bill. I commend you on your ability to jump to conclusions. Please enlighten me: How does giving adoption rights to same-sex couples in a civil union ultimately lead to taking away your right to practice your faith? If Catholic Charities decides to dissolve its adoption services in order not to "violate their conscience," that's their decision. To suggest that they're being coerced into it because of the passage of the civil union bill is absurd.

Thank God (pun intended) that we have separation of church and state. People like you would drag us kicking and screaming back to the 15th century — when men were men and women were burned at the stake. Instead of trying to sniff out this supposed conspiracy against your right to worship, why not transfer those same skills and sniff out the child molesters among your priests?

— Christopher Curcio
Colorado Springs

QUOTE OF THE WEEK

'Because of the accepting nature of nudists, we've seen that our survivor members have far fewer body image issues.'

— Amy Bathrick, member of Mountain Air Ranch nudist resort just west of Littleton, on the impetus for Two Topless Miles, a two-mile walk scheduled for June 15 and billed as the state's first topless breast-cancer fundraiser.

LongStoryShort

Numerous times during my conversation with Lilly Ledbetter for this week's feature story (starting on p. 15), she made a comment that I could immediately see in print — something somehow off-beat, laugh-out-loud funny or, most often, controversial.

She'd speak, and I'd get that fluttery feeling in my stomach: Yes! *This* will make a great lead.

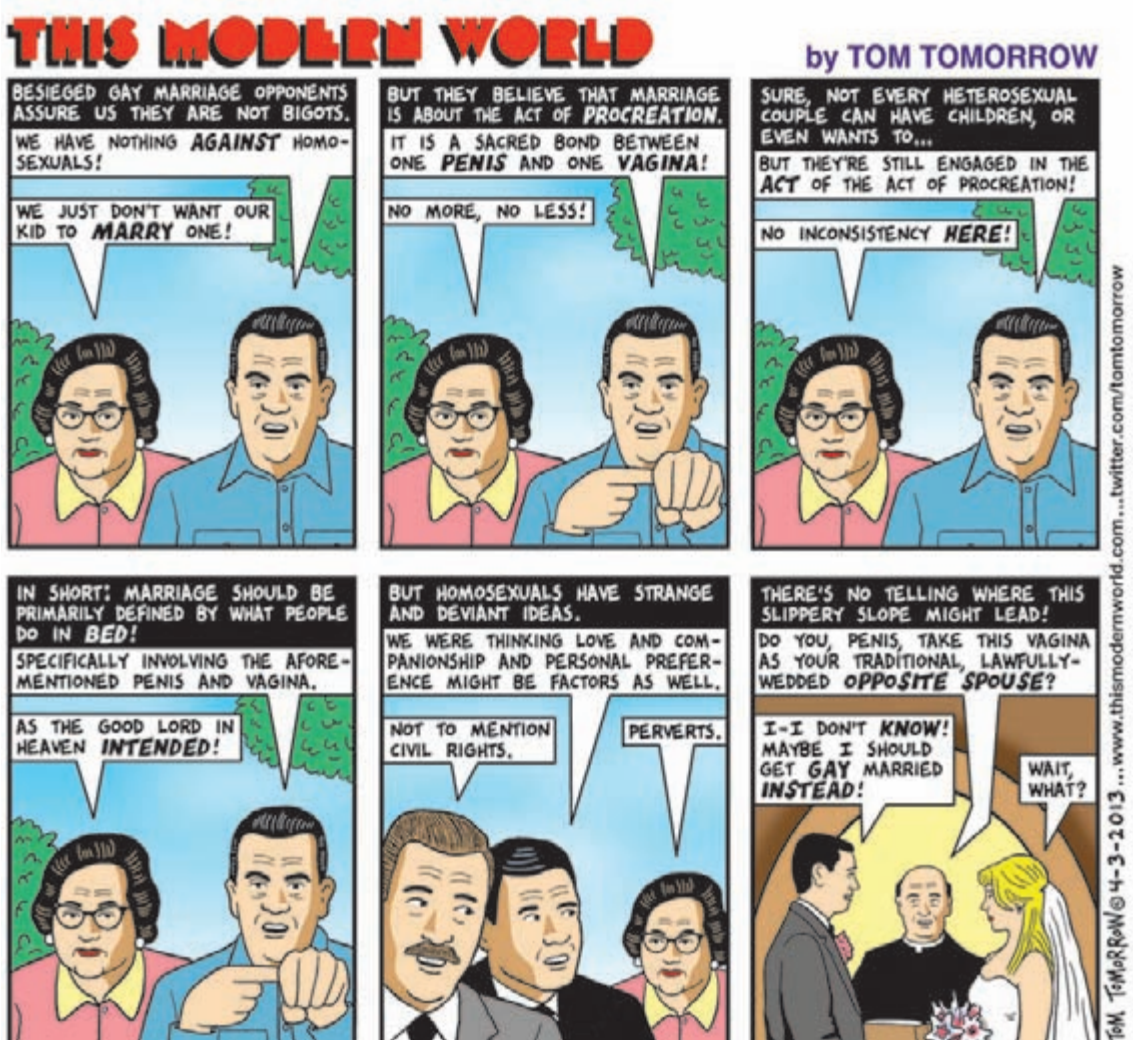
And then, just as fast, as if she'd seen the butterflies furiously flapping their wings, she'd say, "I'd rather you don't put that in ... I don't need any more lawsuits."

It became obvious pretty quickly that as much as Ledbetter has been front and center in the pay-equality fight, she didn't come into this as an activist. She was basically a mother and a hard worker who knew that what her employer was doing — paying the men around her significantly more than she was earning, for the same work — was wrong. And she decided to do something about it.

Doing something "for the money" is often seen negatively. In this case, though, Ledbetter did it for the right to the money she should have earned, which would help her raise her family and keep her going through retirement. And she continues pushing so the women who follow her will be able to be confident in their compensation.

So, yeah, it's often more difficult to craft an interesting story without the type of quotes that make headlines. But to engage people on this topic, it actually shouldn't take the fanciest or most flammable words.

— Kirsten Akens


THIS MODERN WORLD
by TOM TOMORROW
BESIEGED GAY MARRIAGE OPPONENTS ASSURE US THEY ARE NOT BIGOTS.
WE HAVE NOTHING AGAINST HOMOSEXUALS!
WE JUST DON'T WANT OUR KID TO MARRY ONE!
BUT THEY BELIEVE THAT MARRIAGE IS ABOUT THE ACT OF PROCREATION.
IT IS A SACRED BOND BETWEEN ONE PENIS AND ONE VAGINA!
NO MORE, NO LESS!
SURE, NOT EVERY HETEROSEXUAL COUPLE CAN HAVE CHILDREN, OR EVEN WANTS TO...
BUT THEY'RE STILL ENGAGED IN THE ACT OF THE ACT OF PROCREATION!
NO INCONSISTENCY HERE!
IN SHORT: MARRIAGE SHOULD BE PRIMARILY DEFINED BY WHAT PEOPLE DO IN BED!
SPECIFICALLY INVOLVING THE AFOREMENTIONED PENIS AND VAGINA.
AS THE GOOD LORD IN HEAVEN INTENDED!
BUT HOMOSEXUALS HAVE STRANGE AND DEVIANT IDEAS.
WE WERE THINKING LOVE AND COMPANIONSHIP AND PERSONAL PREFERENCE MIGHT BE FACTORS AS WELL.
NOT TO MENTION CIVIL RIGHTS.
PERVERTS.
THERE'S NO TELLING WHERE THIS SLIPPERY SLOPE MIGHT LEAD!
DO YOU, PENIS, TAKE THIS VAGINA AS YOUR TRADITIONAL, LAWFULLY-WEDDED OPPOSITE SPOUSE?
I-I DON'T KNOW! MAYBE I SHOULD GET GAY MARRIED INSTEAD!
WAIT, WHAT?
TOM TOMORROW©4-3-2013...www.thismodernworld.com...twitter.com/tomtomorrow

Peggy, please

An open letter to El Paso County Commissioner Peggy Littleton:

At a screening of *FrackNation* at the Broadmoor, you said, "It would make sense for the city to have and adopt the exact same regulations as the county has. What we see often, however, is the people who don't work, but who are environmentalists who are concerned about their water but have no factual basis, are the ones who show up to the City Council meetings ... Sometimes these meetings get dominated by very large voices of people who know nothing, and it could sound to the people who are coming to the meeting that that is the dominant voice or the prevailing opinion.

"Be the one out there with the posters that say, 'Frack here, frack now.'"

I was a small-business owner for 11 years in Woodland Park and am still the sitting vice president for The Fire Fighters Fund. I currently work at a local small business eight to nine hours a day, four days a week, and am honored to be the 38-year-old mother of a 2-year-old son. For the record I have been involved in the "fracking" fight for only 18 months. This is the first "environmental" activism that I have engaged in, and you bet I'm concerned.

I have gone on field trips to drilling operations. I have watched countless films, pro- and anti-. I have read countless news reports and interviews of those impacted, good and bad. I have pored over scientific studies and field data. I recently sent all the commissioners, as well as City Council, three spill reports that confirmed groundwater contamination which had occurred in the last six months by a single operator, only to receive no reply.

I have *factual* data for you in abundance if you would only allow me to share it. In fact, you don't need it from me. Visit cogcc.state.co.us. Go to Database in the list to the left. Choose Inspection/Incident. In fact, why don't you put Hilcorp Energy in under

Get Involved has moved to Volunteer Opportunities (p. 38) for the week.

Operator and click Inspection at the top to see what you find?

— Lorena Townsend
Colorado Springs

It's embarrassing

The snows of winter and the rains of summer will go on for centuries.

Politicians come and go. The memory of all they did not accomplish will last for weeks.

That such a prestigious and accomplished firm as Summit Economics would recognize the need to withdraw from the stormwater control planning process due to political division among local elected officials and the Mayor should be a source of embarrassment to us all. The matter of stormwater was a golden opportunity served up on a silver platter for local leaders to re-invent how "regionalism-cooperation-collaboration" might work to better the lives of all in the community.

Can we pick up the dropped ball and resume play and just work around the Mayor during a time of need? And get past a time of no leadership on his part? The rains will be here far longer than the Mayor; one just as damaging as the other.

The fact that organizations with impressive names: "Regional Business Alliance" and "Regional Leadership Forum" failed to step up to the plate and exercise real leadership and marshal this process to a successful conclusion is equally embarrassing.

This entire affair indicates a need for there to be crafted that one group within the community who can guide the development of beneficial policy planning through the morass of political infighting.

This could be the greatest challenge facing a new City Council: Create unity.

Unlike the RBA-RLF — do the work and earn the title. Leadership is action, not logos.

— Rick Wehner
Colorado Springs

Déjà vu in Korea

It feels like 1950-52 redux. North Korea's action to cancel the peace treaty which ended the conflict 60 years ago and other recent threats have triggered U.S. response. Our government agreed to come militarily to South Korea's aid from the get-go if North Korea should take hostile action against the South.

The Korean "police action" began the month I was receiving my college degree. Several of my graduating classmates who served one to four years in World War II were called back to military service. These were men of the "Greatest Generation" who had returned to obtain an education on the GI Bill. They did not hesitate to answer their country's second call.

Those were tumultuous years. Thirty-eighth parallel, Yalu River and DMZ became familiar words. Commanding Gen. Douglas MacArthur vowed, "There is no substitute for victory," and wanted to bomb North of the Yalu. That action would likely have caused China to come in full force supporting North Korea. President Truman flew out and fired Gen. MacArthur.

On the battlefield, the conflict became pretty much a stalemate. Back in the U.S., a presidential election would take place in 1952. Dwight Eisenhower's pledge of "I will go to Korea" was certainly a factor contributing to his election. It is fair to say the truce which followed the conflict left the Korean Peninsula in a permanent standoff.

At present, we have 30,000 troops in South Korea, compared with an estimated North Korean force of 1 million. And North Korea is more dangerously unpredictable than ever, experimenting with missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

It behooves the U.S. to convince China to rein in the loose-cannon moves of North Korea. Let us not leave the lives of millions of people in the two Koreas in the hands of Dennis Rodman diplomacy.

— John A. Daly
Colorado Springs

Good stewardship

After attending the March 26 City Council meeting, I wanted to voice my support for the Stage 2B watering restrictions implemented at the meeting (see p. 14). I was encouraged by CSU's thoroughness in assessing the need for Stage 2B and their articulate explanation of how it will affect water reserves.

I encourage everyone to read the CSU presentations appended to the online City Council meeting agenda. As a volunteer with the CSU Xeriscape Demonstration Garden, I've had the opportunity to meet some of the folks who manage our utilities, and now that I've seen them at work I am even more impressed.

I'm also pleased that City Council voted to initiate Stage 2B to protect the water supply for the entire community. As a District 2 resident, I'm disappointed that my representative, City Councilwoman Angela Dougan, was the only member to vote against Stage 2B, deeming it an unreasonable overextension of government. Individuals, she suggested, should simply be trusted to comply.

While I believe in the basic goodness of my fellow citizens, we need every tool at our disposal to help us conserve water, including enforcement of landscape watering restrictions. This important shared resource requires careful and collective stewardship, and the need is urgent.

— Christine Hubbell
Colorado Springs

Correction

Last week's Reverb included an incorrect deadline for Independent Music on Tour grant applications. The 2013 deadline and guidelines are still being determined, after which they'll be announced at imtour.org and on the Western States Arts Federation's Facebook page. Further questions can be sent to andy.thomas@westaf.org. We regret the error.

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CitySage

By John Hazlehurst

Chaos in state legislatures

"No man's life, liberty or property are safe while the Legislature is in session" — Judge ***Gideon J. Tucker****, New York surrogate, 1866*

For at least the 147 years since Judge Tucker wrote those famous words, Americans have regarded state legislatures with healthy suspicion, if not outright disdain. And as the exasperated Tucker noted, state legislative bodies have maintained their reputation the hard way: They've earned it.

Here in Colorado, legislators have kicked photographers, had sex with prostitutes and teenagers (on one occasion, with both a teenage boy *and* a teenage girl), stolen money from friends, supporters, spouses, children, parents, grandparents and business partners, duped investors, driven drunk, and chased a girlfriend down the street armed with a screwdriver. And when they took a break from swindling and carousing, they legislated.

That has not always been a good thing. **Lord Acton**'s famous maxim, that absolute power corrupts absolutely, begins with these words: "Power tends to corrupt."

The battles may continue, but the war is over.

Join the power of individual state legislatures to partisan objectives and you have a recipe for ... well, it depends upon your partisan affiliation.

Partisan Colorado Democrats love this year's Legislature. Partisan Arkansas and North Dakota Republicans love their state legislatures.

In North Dakota, Republicans passed a bill that essentially banned abortions. Never mind *Roe v. Wade*, settled law or that this issue is as easy to solve as the Israeli-Palestinian conflict. Let's do it.

In Arkansas, the General Assembly overrode Democratic Gov. **Mike Beebe**'s veto of a similar bill. Its sponsor, Rep. **Jason Rapert**, crowed cheerfully: "It's a great day for Arkansas; it's a great day for America."

Arkansas' doughty GOPsters then turned to other pressing issues, defunding Planned Parenthood and requiring voters to show IDs at the polls.

Walk through the looking glass, and you're in Colorado. Democrats approved a fistful of anti-gun measures clothed in the feel-good language of massacre prevention. Gunnies reacted like furious pit bulls chained and taunted by Chihuahuas. Hundreds converged on the Capitol, jamming hearing rooms and trying to "persuade" dominant Dems to reconsider.

Having eaten the gunnies' lunch, Colorado Dems turned to civil unions. The bill easily passed; can full-fledged gay marriage be far behind? Many of us would welcome such a development, and would prefer to ignore the concerns of the shrinking minority that continues to oppose marriage equality.

This all may seem like politics as usual, the endless iterations of the culture war symbolized by partisan antics of state legislators.

It's not. This is the endgame. The battles may continue, but the war is over.

Eight years ago, Americans opposed gay marriage 58 percent to 32 percent. Today, they support it by the same margin. Eight years ago, **George W. Bush** began his second term, and Republicans were everywhere ascendant. Today, **Barack Obama** is in his second term, and polls show that **Hillary Clinton** would trounce either **Marco Rubio** or **Jeb Bush** by 11 points — in their home state of Florida!

Even the most delusional of Republicans realize what that means.

If Democrats hold the White House for the next 12 years, deaths and retirements will lead to major realignment of the Supreme Court. It won't be 5-4 conservative, but 6-3 or 7-2 liberal/moderate. That will spell the end of voter-suppression schemes, marriage inequality, state-mandated abortion prohibition, public school de-funding, and easy access to assault weapons.

Democrats know they've won. Republicans know they've lost, so they're circling the wagons. Their only hope is to suppress emerging majorities, energize the base, and hope the country somehow comes back around.

Gentlemen, it's the last days of the Confederacy. It's time to quit the battlefield, return home and build statues to honor your not-yet-fallen heroes.

Therein lies opportunity for Colorado Springs! Where else to put the **Karl Rove** library and the statue of **Jim Dobson**? What more congenial retirement city for the once-powerful mandarins of the extreme right?

Let's start by obtaining the equestrian statue of **Nathan Bedford Forrest** from Memphis, where Confederate generals aren't as popular today.

Imagine it in America the Beautiful Park! I can hardly wait ...

— hazlehurst@csindy.com

StreetSmarts

Unequal equality

We wave the flag for self-determination, the pursuit of happiness and equal protection under the law, but too often only select Americans enjoy these rights.

Juanita de Sanz from San Francisco is a ***psychotherapist***

To what extent does gender inequality still exist in the U.S.? Men are still paid more than women for the same job. If an equally qualified man and woman compete for a job, the man is more likely to get it. Men and women still aren't equally responsible for raising the children.

Why does gender inequality persist? Men and women both still tend to assume it's more important for men to succeed and be providers.

Did your grandparents tell inequality stories in their day? My godmother told me about how her parents could pay for college for only one kid, and even though she had a lot of promise and was a better student than her brother, they sent him because it was more important for a boy to have a career.

Which demographic group gets the rawest deal in the U.S. today? Black males. African-American women tend to be leaders of the family, which lends them a measure of respect. Black men don't get even that.

Philip Krogmeier from ***Monument*** is a ***clerk***

How prevalent is gender inequality? Women are still underrepresented in many fields and they get paid less than men in similar positions.

Do you know any instances of gender discrimination? I know of several women in my job who had the same position as me but got paid less, even though they were more qualified and had been there longer.

Which American demographic is most subject to inequality today? We're especially hard on immigrants. We claim they take jobs away from U.S. citizens, but they actually get jobs U.S. citizens won't take.

Do you have a position on gay marriage? Religious belief should not determine anyone's right to marry.

Jason Stern from the ***north end area*** is a ***college student***

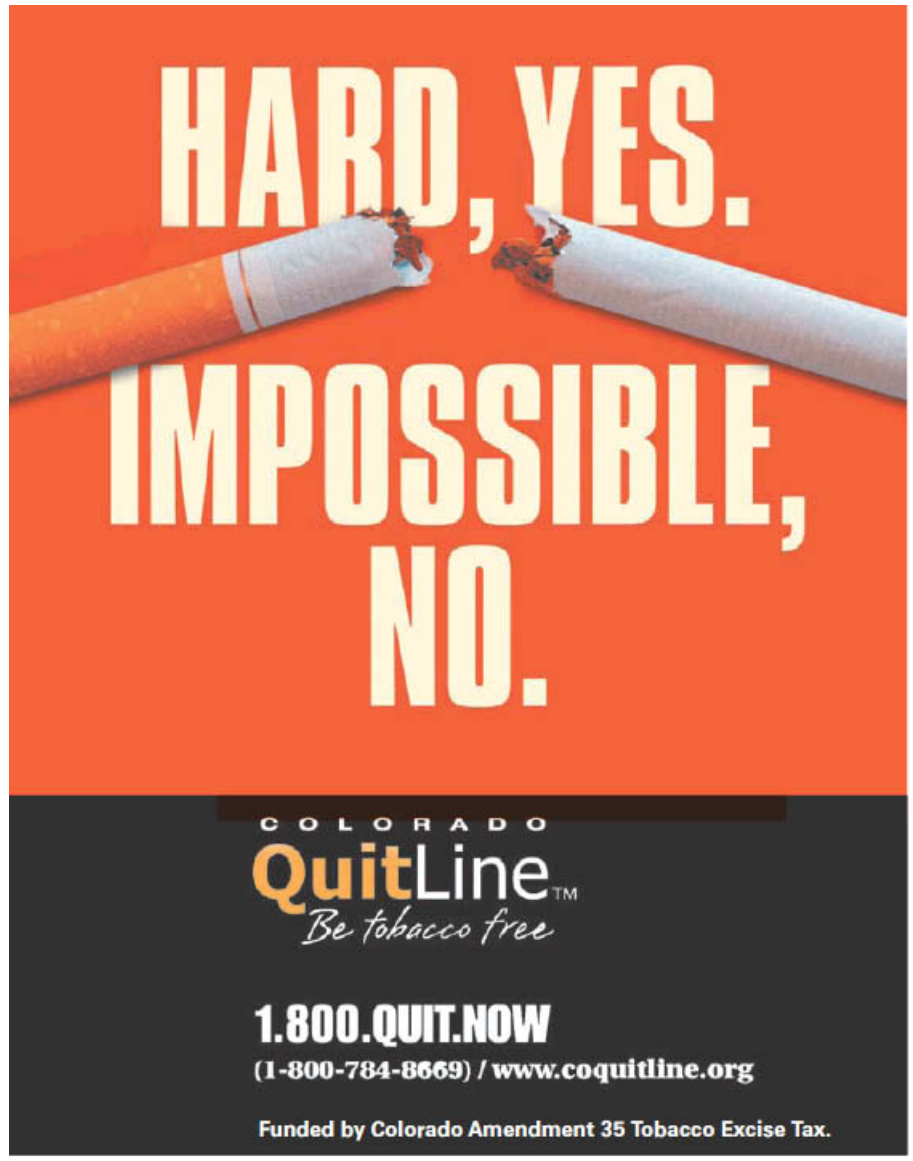
How prevalent is gender discrimination today? It extends into the Obama administration; women have a lot of positions, but in predominantly low-opportunity levels.

Do you know anyone who's been personally impacted by gender issues? My mother. She got a ski racing scholarship to college the year they implemented Title IX, which made colleges offer equal numbers of athletic scholarships to males and females. Before that, only males got ski scholarships.

What demographic gets the rawest deal currently? Probably people of color, African-Americans in particular, but female African-Americans most of all.

Where do you stand on marriage equality for gays? It's kind of disgusting that religious beliefs still get mixed in with our laws.

*— **Bob Campbell***



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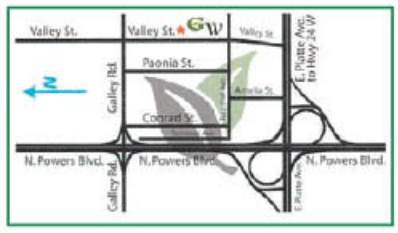

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BetweentheLines

By Ralph Routon

New idea for retail marijuana

Here in Colorado Springs, where you can be a tolerant moderate and yet be judged as a wild-eyed liberal, it usually doesn't make sense to use Boulder as an example to follow.

Especially when the subject is recreational marijuana.

Since the passage last November of Amendment 64, which set the stage for legalizing the possession and retail sale of the drug, the knee-jerk response of many elected leaders in El Paso County has been to oppose its implementation in any way possible. Never mind that El Paso County actually approved Amendment 64 by a 10-vote margin (141,696 to 141,686), with more people voting on that issue (283,382) than anything on the ballot except the presidential race. Take away about a dozen ultra-conservative precincts, and the rest of the county — including Colorado Springs — said yes to recreational marijuana by a comfortable margin.

So, for a moment, let's consider a way to make the most of it. Let's also agree that the attempts so far at state and local regulation have not gone smoothly. Without having sufficient resources to regulate and enforce the legal sale of recreational marijuana, perhaps it's time to consider a different option.

This comes from **Sean Maher**, executive director of the Downtown Boulder Business Improvement District as well as Downtown Boulder Inc., that city's version of our Downtown Partnership. Maher has been a Boulder civic leader for about a quarter-century, having brought the first Ben & Jerry's franchises into Colorado, later directing Boulder's Small Business Development Center, and leading efforts there encouraging business and product innovation.

'I am honestly not sure whether it is brilliant or crazy.'

He also doesn't smoke marijuana, he says, after trying it in college but never enjoying it. As he puts it, "My social drug of choice has always come in a bottle and not a bag."

But Maher sees Amendment 64's problems and has a different reaction. He'd like to turn it into a economic boon for his city.

So, in the *Daily Camera*'s Sunday edition, Maher wrote an op-ed presenting a new idea, simple yet realistic. Maher doesn't take credit for it, and admits "I am honestly not sure whether it is brilliant or crazy. But it is definitely worth discussing."

The idea is for cities like Boulder (or Colorado Springs) to take over the retail marijuana business themselves. This would follow the lead of 18 states in which cities and/or the state itself have some level of control over retail or warehouse sales of alcohol. If you've visited Idaho, Utah, Oregon or other such states, you know the drill.

Maher takes the logical next step: "If alcohol and pot are indeed similar, why can't Boulder handle pot like other places handle booze?"

More from the op-ed: "One thing is sure. Licensing, monitoring and enforcement for a bunch of new outlets will be costly and cumbersome. If recreational pot sales were controlled by the city, there might be just two or three municipal pot stores in strategic locations. Control and enforcement would be a snap and you would not have to worry about a pot store popping up down the street from your house or your kid's school."

He's making sense, and the prize would be the revenue. Boulder County has about 300,000 residents, almost half as many as El Paso County. Granted, the per capita marijuana usage there would probably be higher. But consider that Boulder County has 9,379 registered medical marijuana patients, as of February, and El Paso County has 14,985.

Maher, using his deep knowledge of the Boulder economy and drawing reasonable conclusions, suggests Boulder could rake in "up to $20 million in profit every year plus another few million in sales taxes."

With double the population, Colorado Springs could use Maher's numbers as a starting point. In 2012, our city government took in $1.09 million in taxes from local medical marijuana centers. Imagine what Colorado Springs could do with 20 times more than that, every year. For starters, Maher suggests Boulder could "hire more police officers and fund drug and alcohol education [and] eliminate our transportation funding crisis."

Colorado Springs could do all that, and more. It's at least worth exploring — and perhaps even working with Boulder to learn whether it could be possible.

Yes, working with Boulder. Why not?

— routon@csindy.com

Take the money and run

Mayor Steve Bach throws a million bucks at resignees, 'retirees' and other exiting Colorado Springs employees

Patricia Kelly

Steve Cox

Richard Myers

By Pam Zubeck

City Attorney Pat Kelly was the first to go, then Police Chief Richard Myers, who was followed by Human Resources Director Ann Crossey, Budget Director Lisa Bigelow and Economic Vitality Chief Steve Cox. That's five high-profile department heads who, according to Colorado Springs city government, chose to retire between August 2011 and July 2012.

The timing makes for quite a coincidence, especially given that Mayor Steve Bach took office in June 2011. But it's no more striking than one other aspect of their departures: that each of these "retirees" was also given a severance package.

In fact, severance payouts for the five together exceeded $350,000. Add in extended health care coverage and payouts for sick leave, and the figure increases to nearly $543,600. With vacation pay (required by law), it's about $700,650.

All told, city documents reveal that Mayor Steve Bach has paid nearly $750,000 in severance — a figure that equates to the salaries of 16 patrol officers — to 23 exiting city workers, many of them managers. The total payout rises to more than $1 million if extended health benefits and sick-leave payouts are added, and more than $1.35 million including vacation payouts.

The *Independent* asked Bach via e-mail last week why he's shed so many top managers in less than two years; why this has been a good use of taxpayer money; why he was willing to sacrifice so much institutional knowledge; and why the city labeled many departures as "retirements" but paid severance anyway.

City spokesperson Julie Smith sent a one-sentence reply: "The mayor does not have any comment on these questions."

The deals

Most recently, on March 22, Bach sent Airport Director Mark Earle packing. Bach said in a March 28 interview with KVOR radio that he and Earle weren't "philosophically aligned" on marketing the airport, "and Mark offered that if I wanted to go a different way on the marketing, he would respect that, and if so desired, he would withdraw."

Earle will serve as "senior advisor - airport and aviation affairs" through the calendar year, during which he will keep his annual base pay rate of $165,899.

While philosophical differences haven't come up as often as "retirements," at least one other departure has been chalked up to them. In early 2012, Deputy Chief of Staff Nancy Johnson, who'd also served as assistant city manager, resigned. As Bach's Chief of Staff Laura Neumann said at the time: "As with any transition in executive leadership, there are really good people ... talented, high performers that may not agree with the new direction or have the right chemistry with the new regime." Johnson was paid $34,074 in severance, plus another $7,187 in other benefits, not including vacation pay.

But even one who seemingly had the right chemistry was paid to leave. Cox served as Bach's first chief of staff, then headed up the city's Economic Vitality department. Bach and Cox, a former fire chief, were connected at the hip, especially during the Waldo Canyon Fire. Then suddenly, on July 18, Cox "retired" and walked away with $148,269 in severance pay and other benefits — plus a $42,276 vacation payout. (Cox has also kept a "consulting" arrangement with the mayor since then.)

It's all part of the $1,040,741 Bach has used to grease the exits of certain people. That figure covers $747,745 in severance pay, $45,315 for health insurance and $247,681 for unused sick pay. It doesn't cover another roughly $327,000 in vacation pay.

The only employee to fight an exit is former Finance Director Terri Velasquez, who's suing over her 2011 dismissal.

Performance or politics

Jim Mullen, the Springs' city manager from 1996 to 2002, says "nothing positive" comes from Bach's severance policy. Mullen, who's served as a municipal manager in six jurisdictions, says he never used severance pay to get rid of an employee. But, he adds, "That's what 'strong mayors' do.

"Their priority is their agenda; it's not the agenda of the community or the City Council, and I think that's definitely the case here," Mullen says. "If someone isn't toeing the line for Steve Bach or Steve Bach's team, anyone who shows disloyalty or lack of total commitment, that person is put on a list and pretty soon they're gone."

Mullen likens Bach to big-city mayors. But in, say, Chicago and other top-tier cities, employees are protected from political retribution by civil service policies or laws; here, they're not.

"The huge loss of experience and leadership, you can't put a price tag on that," Mullen says. "Great mistakes result from those kinds of decisions when experienced staff are replaced."

Former Councilor Richard Skorman, who ran against Bach for mayor, agrees the city has lost a lot in two years. "You have a mostly new Council and you don't have institutional history there," he says. "You have very few leaders, department heads who have been there and understood the decisions of the past."

Mullen says those who remain fear for their jobs, so they avoid taking risks and don't offer new ideas. Meantime, he adds, the city gets a reputation. "It's absolutely crushing in terms of the ability of the city to attract real quality professional managers to their city who will stay around for a long time and provide the kind of services that some of our long-term employees have."

But while Skorman acknowledges Bach's discharge methods can "create an atmosphere [where] people are afraid they may be next," house-cleanings do have an upside.

"The advantage is that you have your own staff that you hand-picked, that you have interviewed and they understand what your goals are," Skorman says.

Keeping them secret

The *Independent* wanted to report details of the severance agreements, but the city refused to release them, claiming they're part of the employees' personnel files.

Actually, they're not, says media attorney Steven D. Zansberg of Denver.

"Severance agreements between a government entity and a (former) public employee are public records and are not part of the employee's 'personnel file,'" he writes via e-mail. Personnel files are defined in the law, he says, as containing only personal demographic information like phone numbers and personal bank account information.

Zansberg also cites a 1998 Colorado Attorney General's opinion that backs up his contention. "A final written settlement agreement that is fully executed between a state institution, agency, or political subdivision, and an employee or other third party as a result of alternative dispute resolution, is subject to the Open Records Act," then-Attorney General Gale Norton wrote in a case that arose from the Board of Regents.

First Amendment Attorney Kevin M. Goldberg of Washington, D.C., agrees and cites numerous cases that substantiate Zansberg's opinion.

— zubeck@csindy.com

Who got what?

Top 10 severance-related payouts, June 2011 through February 2013

Name	Final title	Severance pay	Health insurance	Vacation pay[1]	Sick leave to retirement[2]	Total
Patricia Kelly	City Attorney	$96,164.16	N/A	$57,192.34	$41,787.20	$195,143.70
Steve Cox	Economic Vitality Chief	$86,330.99	$4,312	$42,275.91	$57,626.37	$190,545.27
Richard Myers	Police Chief	$71,989.56	$6,570.50	$16,650.56	$28,225.42	$123,436.04
Lisa Bigelow	Budget Manager	$59,527.13	N/A	$28,425.36	$27,474.07	$115,426.56
Robert Mack	Asst. City Attorney	$58,093.25	$6,112.00	$22,178.77	$26,812.27	$113,196.29
William Hulse	Information Systems Mgr.	$55,409.38	$4,312.50	$22,196.25	$20,977.69	$102,895.82
Brett Veltman	Dev. Review Mgr.	$50,151.22	$4,282	$24,776.63	N/A	$79,209.85
Ann Crossey	HR Director	$38,573.19	N/A	$12,521.49	$25,003.49	$76,098.17
Dick Anderwald	Land Dev. Review Div. Mgr.	$36,777.56	$2,875	$10,959.54	$9,211.72	$59,823.82
Sue Skiffington-Blumberg	Public Communications Mgr.	$38,935.72	$1,617.50	$18,229.31	N/A	$58,782.53

[1]Payment mandated by law • [2]Paid into a tax-deferred retirement health savings account, from which employees can pay health care premiums

Source: City of Colorado Springs

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Add it to the list

Waldo victims band together to organize their own insurance assistance

By J. Adrian Stanley

Colorado Springs Together was envisioned as a clearinghouse for Waldo Canyon Fire victims, a place to turn to for their every need.

Courtesy United Policy Holders

Other cities have welcomed Amy Bach.

Except, apparently, insurance advocacy.

"What we've tried to do is kind of keep a distance, avoid getting in the middle of the policyholder-insurance discussion," executive director Bob Cutter says.

CST actually has an insurance expert on its leadership team, and several volunteers with insurance knowledge that hold one-on-one meetings with victims by appointment. But it's refused to sponsor or even host large-scale meetings in which outside insurance experts help victims wade through the demands of making claims.

Kerri Olivier, whose Mountain Shadows home was damaged in the fire, says she's been consumed with insurance forms and estimators checking every cranny of her home. In her spare moments, she's helped neighbors with their claims. But she's wanted more expert advice.

After seeking help from CST and being rebuffed, she and a group of women who lost their homes, known as the "Wonderful Waldo Women," organized their own meeting for Thursday, April 4. (CST did agree to promote it via e-mail.)

The worst part has been documenting what's gone.

"[Insurance] is a huge undertaking," Olivier says. "Many, many people end up losing their jobs or have to take immense amounts of time off work ... or they just end up getting the short end of the stick."

The worst part for Olivier's neighbors has been documenting the contents of their homes, from socks to couches to kids' toys. The process can be a nightmare emotionally and logistically. Olivier says insurance companies want to know not only what was lost, but what brand it was, where and when it was purchased, how much it cost, and whether it was a gift. Many will only fully reimburse after the homeowner buys a replacement.

The Thursday workshop will help victims list their lost items and get the reimbursements they're owed. Participants are encouraged to bring laptops, lists, photos and anything that will help them recall what they've lost.

Amy Bach, executive director of the national nonprofit United Policy Holders, is the guest speaker. Her group provides assistance to victims of disasters who are managing insurance claims. It's been around since 1991, and many of its volunteers have lost their own homes in disasters.

Bach (who hasn't lost her home) says that communities normally welcome her organization — it was highly involved in Boulder fire recovery years ago, and has hosted six meetings in Fort Collins since the High Park Fire this summer. She initially tried to schedule meetings through the city government and CST after Waldo, and was surprised it was so difficult.

"No matter what we said, [CST] is just extremely careful in who they brought," Bach says. "I give them the benefit of every doubt that they're trying to do the right thing."

Still, Bach says she's glad the grant-sponsored meeting is taking place now, with a second workshop planned for later this month. Many insurance companies have time limits for reimbursements, and the clock, of course, is ticking.

— stanley@csindy.com

CAPSULE

Personal Property Insurance Claim Workshop with Amy Bach

Fire Station 18, 6830 Hadler View

April 4, 6-8 p.m.

Free; RSVP optional at kerriolivier@gmail.com.

"A Roadmap to Recovery," dealing with insurance claims and other topics, featuring United Policy Holders insurance experts

Centennial Hall Auditorium, 200 S. Cascade Ave.

April 23, 6:30 p.m.

Free.

Getting ready for the rain

As described in "Black water," our March 20 cover story, flooding off the Waldo Canyon burn scar is expected to be dangerous and destructive. But a lot of people in the community are working to alleviate risks as much as possible.

That in mind, here are a few efforts to keep an eye on:

Door-to-door flood awareness campaign: The city of Colorado Springs and AspenPointe will distribute a flood-preparedness brochure and other tools to high flood-risk neighborhoods. Volunteers will drop packets on porches throughout the month.

Post-fire flood risk meetings: Want to learn more about your flood risk? Head to a community meeting. The current schedule is as follows.

• Green Mountain Falls area: Monday, April 8, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., at Ute Pass Elementary School, 9230 Chipita Park Road

• Cascade area: Tuesday, April 9, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Ute Pass Elementary School, 9230 Chipita Park Road

• Pleasant Valley neighborhood: Thursday, April 11, 6 to 8 p.m., Glen Eyrie Castle Great Hall, 3820 N. 30th St.

• Manitou Springs: Monday, April 15, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Manitou Springs City Hall, 606 Manitou Ave.

• Manitou Springs: Wednesday, April 24, 6:30 to 8:30 p.m., Manitou Springs City Hall, 606 Manitou Ave.

Free sandbag distribution day: If you are in a high-flood risk area on the west side, you can get free filled sandbags on April 13 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. at the Verizon Wireless building, located at 2424 W. Garden of the Gods Road.

— J. Adrian Stanley

Shades of brown

County faces a challenge to the 'live and let live' tenet

By J. Adrian Stanley

Most of us would be happier believing that poop simply disappears once it's flushed down the toilet.

But it does go somewhere. Just ask the residents of rural Hanover, who have recently received an earful on — and in some cases, a lungful of — treated human sewage, otherwise known as "biosolids."

Unbeknownst to most, biosolids are a thriving product, sold as fertilizer at the store and sprinkled across fields and crops. They have long been used by landowners in Hanover who contract with Parker Ag Services, a company that manages biosolids for many Colorado utilities. (Colorado Springs Utilities isn't a client; it tills its biosolids into Clear Spring Ranch, located near the Ray Nixon Power Plant.) Parker Ag spreads its product for free in Hanover, southeast of the Springs.

Neighbors were blissfully ignorant of that arrangement until last year, when Parker Ag tripled or quadrupled its application in the area, leading to increased truck traffic, smell and blowing sediment. Luke Bond, compliance manager for the company, explains that there were simply more biosolids available, as some utilities shut down or cleaned lagoons. He notes that his company has passed recent inspections.

"I know there's some discontent," he says, "but from what I can see we're doing a good job."

Still, by winter, complaints started to roll in to the El Paso County Board of County Commissioners, who agreed to learn more at a March 26 meeting. Addressing commissioners, seven Hanover residents said they were worried.

"I have aging parents," resident Veronica McClinton said. "We have concern about whether they can breathe what's blowing over."

The neighbors presented a petition opposing the biosolids. Later in the meeting, however, a farmer presented a second petition, this one favoring them. Both had dozens of signatures.

Experts sided with the latter group, saying feces is part of the circle of, er, food. Reusing it on crops, they said, is a form of recycling, and is likely safer for the environment than dumping it in a landfill or burning it.

According to Tom Gonzales with El Paso County Public Health, and Tim Larson, a biosolids specialist from the Colorado Department of Public Health and Environment, biosolids are screened and treated in order to prevent them from carrying disease. The state and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency regulate them, and special licenses must be obtained before they're applied to any land.

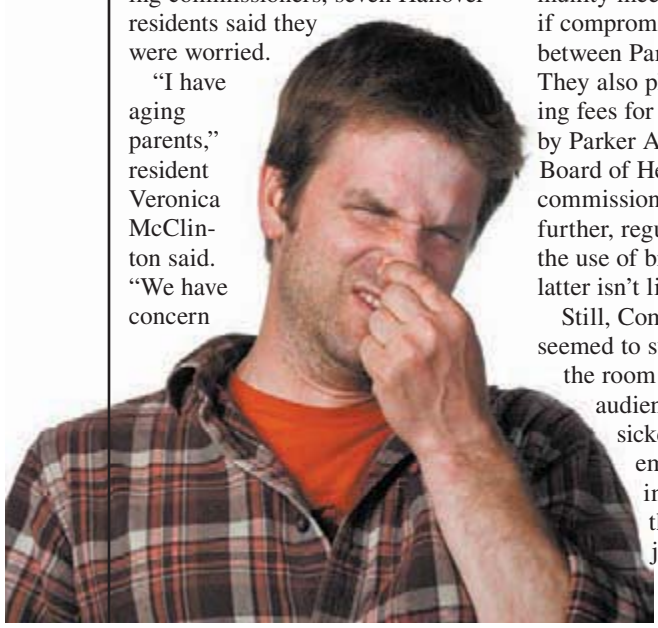
"As best we know at this time, there has been no known illnesses directly related to biosolids, the beneficial use of that, if used properly," Larson said, adding that cow manure is a higher-risk fertilizer because it is not tested or sterilized in any way.

Despite such explanations, and their own libertarian leanings, commissioners were clearly struggling to get over the "yuck" factor.

"It's a definite mental shift," Commissioner Peggy Littleton said haltingly. "... At least we haven't gotten to the point of soylent green, or eating people."

Commissioners requested community meetings be held to see if compromises could be reached between Parker Ag and neighbors. They also plan to consider charging fees for heavy use of the roads by Parker Ag trucks. The county Board of Health, on which several commissioners sit, could go even further, regulating or even banning the use of biosolids — though the latter isn't likely.

Still, Commissioner Sallie Clark seemed to sum up the feeling in the room when she turned to the audience, looking slightly sickened and extremely empathetic. "I would be in favor of doing something," she said, "and not just *nothing*."



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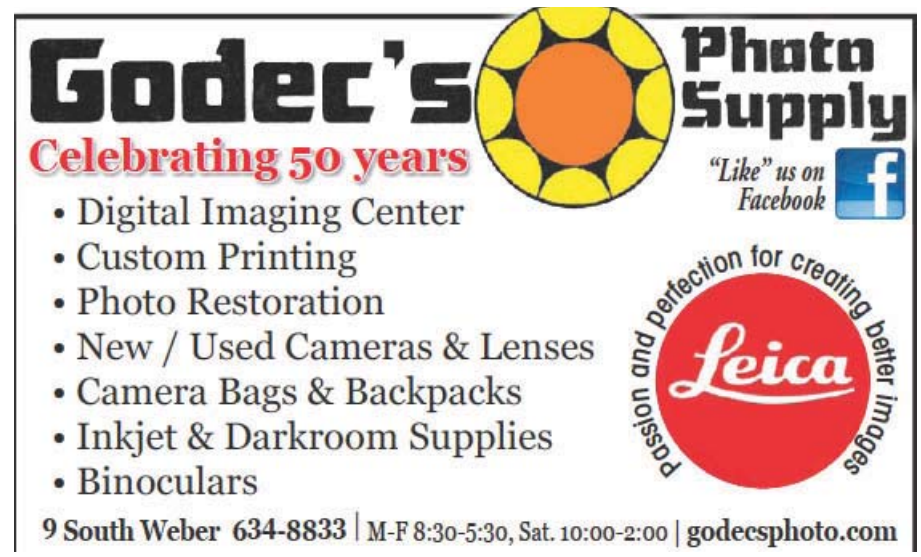
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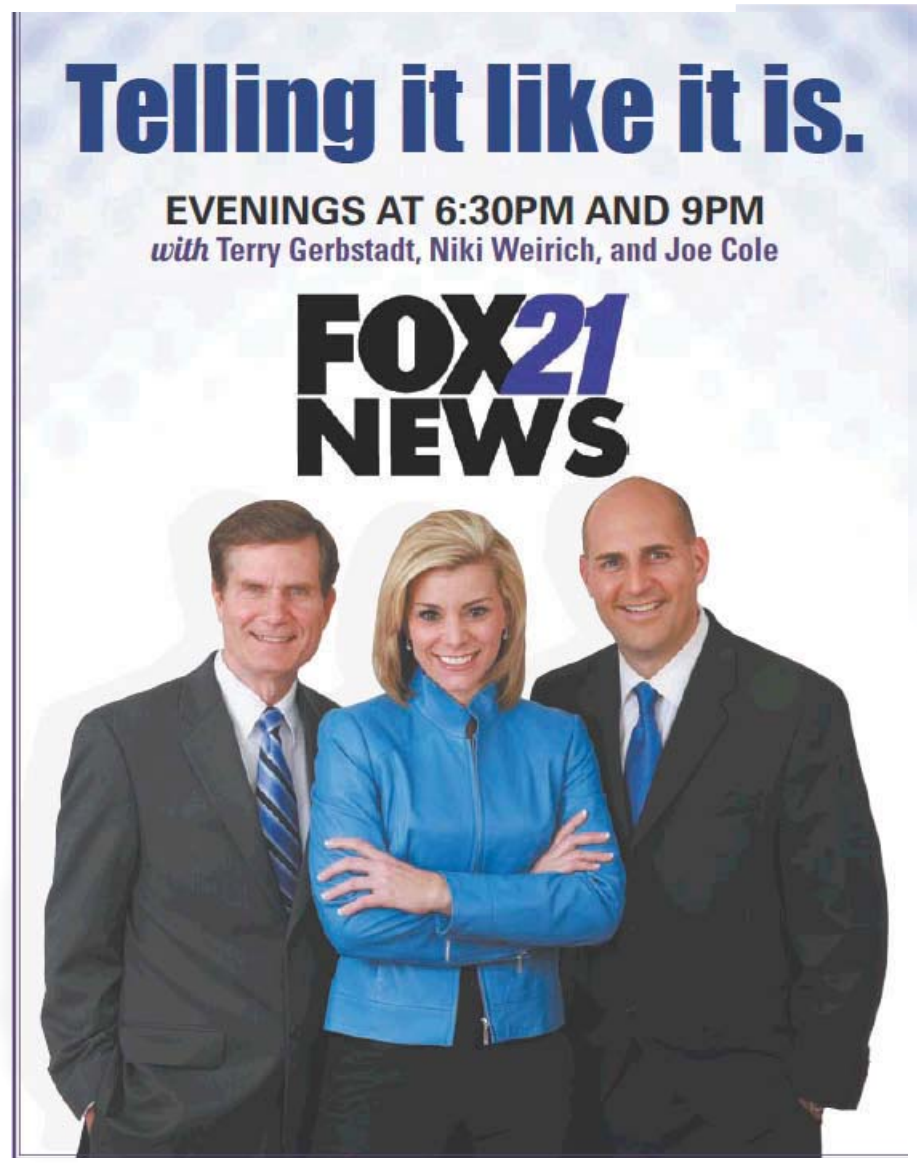

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Noted

News briefs from the Front Range

Watch that water use

Due to persistent drought, Colorado Springs City Council last week approved outdoor watering restrictions that limit homes to twice-per-week watering and a water-shortage tariff that charges more as consumption rises.

The goal is to use 30 percent less water this irrigation season, April through October, compared to last year.

Odd-numbered homes can water on Tuesdays and Saturdays; even-numbered, on Sundays and Wednesdays. Between May 1 and October 1, watering is limited to three hours on the designated days, and only 6 p.m. to 10 a.m. Other rules include:

• No washing of hard surfaces.

• Vehicles may only be washed using an active positive shut-off nozzle on Saturday, Sunday or your assigned watering day, or any time at a commercial car wash.

• Water features must be recirculating and may only be run for 14 hours per day.

• Water trees, shrubs, flowers and gardens on any day, at any time, with a handheld hose equipped with a positive shutoff nozzle, a watering can or a drip irrigation system.

While the city won't be patrolling for offenders, the new restrictions will be enforced in response to complaints. Warnings will be given for first violations, but fines of $300, $400 and $500 will be imposed on water bills for second, third and fourth violations. A fifth could result in disconnection of service.

The rate changes will charge more for those who use more. To keep your water bill from rising, stay below 2,000 cubic fee of water use per month. — ***PZ***

Williams tops in fundraising

Candidates in six district races for Colorado Springs City Council seats have raised about $340,000 and spent close to $271,000, according campaign finance reports filed through last Friday.

By far the richest race has been for District 3, which includes the Broadmoor area, the west side and downtown, where three candidates raised $135,024 and spent $105,291. Brandy Williams, who got $43,500 from her mother, led the way, followed by Keith King and Jim Bensberg.

Those elected Tuesday (after the *Indy*'s deadline) take office April 16.

Amounts raised and spent:

District 1: Joe Barrera, $1,306 – $1,995; Don Knight, $10,174 – $10,150; Tim Leigh, $21,175 – $13,136; Linda Mojer, $100 – $75; Julie Naye, no reports.

District 2: Angela Dougan, $30,129 – $28,548; Joel Miller, $8,974 – $8,851.

District 3: Jim Bensberg, $19,184 – $17,113; Keith King, $56,864 – $35,172; Brandy Williams, $58,976 – $53,006.

District 4: Helen Collins, $9,159 – $8,662; Gary Flakes, $365 – $349; Deborah Hendrix, $20,055 – $7,826; Dennis Moore, $8,494 – $7,360.

District 5: Jill Gaebler, $16,942 – $12,611; Bernie Herpin, $15,472 – $7,099; Al Loma, $13,401 – $12,365; Roger McCarville, $13,512 – $13,344.

District 6: Ed Bircham, $11,000 – $10,789 (entirely self-funded); David Moore, $19,505 – $18,122; Andres Pico, $5,505 – $4,245. — ***PZ***

A stormwater casualty

Summit Economics, which authored a white paper on stormwater funding options, has dropped out of a process to find a permanent solution to what's been estimated as a $906 million regional problem.

Summit was assisting the citizen-led Regional Stormwater Steering Committee in finding a long-term funding source and regional governance model for stormwater infrastructure. However, the company has decided against further involvement because Colorado Springs hasn't backed the effort.

City Council has thus far failed to approve a resolution agreeing to work with the county on the issue. Mayor Steve Bach has been a vocal critic of the effort. But County Commissioner Amy Lathen, who helped organize the Steering Committee, says the group plans to move forward.

"We are full steam ahead," she says, noting that Summit's white paper already has generated all the information the group needs. Lathen estimates that more than 200 people, including committee members and interested citizens, are taking part. — ***JAS***

Bear Creek comments?

In an effort to protect the last-known home of the threatened greenback cutthroat trout ("Fifty shades of green," cover story, Oct. 3, 2012), the Pikes Peak Ranger District is considering changes to the area, including alteration to the popular upper Captain Jack's trail and other recreation areas in the Bear Creek Watershed.

The public is invited to comment on the issue at an open house from 4 to 9 p.m., Thursday, April 4, at the Leon Young Service Center, 1521 Hancock Expy.

Comments are also being received through April 30 by fax at 477-4233 or e-mail at bcc@fs.fed.us. Mail is accepted at Bear Creek Watershed Restoration Project, Pikes Peak Ranger District, 601 S. Weber St., Colorado Springs, CO 80903. — ***JAS***

Compiled by J. Adrian Stanley and Pam Zubeck.

Revenge-porn pro takes off

Craig Brittain's flown south.

'I'm goin' out west where they appreciate me."

Craig Brittain posted that to Facebook last Saturday, then updated his profile to reflect a new city of residence: Phoenix.

Brittain, the owner and operator of isanybodydown.com, hasn't responded to *Indy* inquiries on his apparent departure from Colorado Springs. But he talked of leaving even back in December, when we first interviewed him about his revenge-porn website for our cover story, "The face of revenge" (Jan. 9). Chance Trahan, his buddy and site co-creator, lives outside of Phoenix.

Since the *Indy*'s story, Brittain and his site, which hosts once-private nude photos and videos (usually submitted by a jilted ex), have been featured nationally on *Inside Edition*, with TV outlets in the Springs and Denver reporting on them, too.

But according to CBS4 in Denver, after its series of stories the station was contacted by an attorney with a "major federal agency ... considering a formal investigation" into Brittain and Is Anybody Down?

The TV station continued that the attorney "characterized the inquiry as a 'preliminary investigation' and asked that her name and agency not be revealed until a decision had been made on whether to go forward with a full-blown federal investigation."

When contacted by the *Indy* about that, Brittain dismissed the report as "false," pointing out that CBS4 reported information that couldn't be confirmed by a third party. "The source is the unnamed person that says they work for an unnamed federal agency," Brittain wrote in an e-mail. He didn't say whether he had been contacted in connection to an investigation.

But as Ken White, a former federal prosecutor and popular popehat.com blogger, writes to the *Indy*, "An investigating agency will often contact the defendant last."

White, who has been reporting on Brittain since October of last year, adds that the agency he suspects is behind the investigation, the Federal Trade Commission, wouldn't even contact Brittain until it files suit.

— ***Chet Hardin***

Turnabout's fair pay

That landmark legislation that bears her name? Lilly Ledbetter says it's just the beginning

By Kirsten Akens

Lilly Ledbetter's Southern drawl could be soothing, but her message won't allow that.

The 74-year-old is most famously known for suing Goodyear Tire & Rubber Co. in 1998, after nearly 20 years of employment, for not being compensated fairly. In fact, her pay was 15 to 40 percent lower than that of her fellow male production supervisors with equal or less seniority. The lawsuit traveled to the U.S. Supreme Court, but was finally denied in 2007 because she had not filed her complaint within the 180 days required by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

In her dissenting argument, Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated that for a rule change, "the ball is in Congress' court." It took a few rounds through the Legislature, but in 2009 President Barack Obama signed the Lilly Ledbetter Fair Pay Restoration Act, a bill that resets the timeline requirements for filing a compensation-related discrimination lawsuit.

Still, Ledbetter's work isn't done. Though her home is in Jacksonville, Ala., she often can be found in Washington, D.C., visiting House or Senate chambers to follow up on the progress of Paycheck Fairness bills — bills that could allow both for protections for women who want to discuss salary disparities with their employers, and for the federal government to collect salary information to monitor possible pay discrimination.

According to the National Women's Law Center's analysis of U.S. Census data, white, non-Hispanic women working full-time, year-round, are still paid only 77 cents to every dollar that men are paid, a figure that hasn't changed in 10 years. The gap gets even larger when considering gender and race.

We caught up with Ledbetter over the phone in late March, between her many talks across the country for Women's History Month. It's a busy time of year: The second Tuesday in April marks Equal Pay Day, and as part of her travels this month, she'll be passing through Colorado Springs on the 8th for a lecture at the University of Colorado at Colorado Springs.

***Indy*: Talk about that moment when you found out how drastic the difference was in pay between you and your male co-workers.**

LL: Immediately I was devastated. I felt humiliated, embarrassed. I mean, it was like falling down, or if you've ever had those dreams of runnin' down the street with no clothes on. ...

I did not know how many people knew these facts, or where the information came from ... but immediately my mind starting calculating just overtime pay, how much money I had lost. ... This is just terrible to think about, how much money my family had done without, when I had worked for it, had legally earned it under the law. ...

I didn't expect to be paid exactly to the penny what everybody else was paid because that's why they had the system they did, but I should have been closer and in the ballpark. And as I tell people today, I had not even gotten through the gate, to tell you the truth.

Lilly Ledbetter details her story in her 2012 memoir.

***Indy*: It's still with you. I can hear it in your voice.**

LL: It'll always be with me. Every month, when my Social Security check and my retirement checks go in the bank, my mind is saying I know they're 40 percent less, and actually [the disparity is] much greater than that because just the difference in my pay was 40 percent. It should be more than that based on my overtime, because the overtime pay kicked up my income, and that would've made my 401(k) — which was 10 percent, matched by 6 percent — stock greater. My contributory pension was a percentage, matched by percentage, that would've been greater.

My Social Security check is based on what I earned. My retirement check is based on what I earned. So I'm shorted for the rest of my life, and I'm treated like a second-class citizen. And there's nothin' I can do about it.

***Indy*: You received an anonymous note. I would guess, knowing my own history with how pay is kept confidential within companies, that most women today still have no idea how their salaries compare. How do you go about effecting change when that's the situation?**

LL: Well, what I'm telling my audiences today, Paycheck Fairness has passed the House twice. I've been in the balcony in the Senate chambers when it was voted on the last two times in the Senate, and it's come three votes, and then two votes short. Last time it was voted on, every Democrat in that chamber voted for it. Not one Republican.

And what you and I are talking about right now, it has nothin' to do with either party. That should not be a Democratic problem. That shouldn't be a Republican [problem]. That should belong to both because equal pay, and being treated equitably, and fairly, is a fundamental, American right. It's civil rights. ...

What I am so proud of with the Ledbetter bill — it was sponsored and co-sponsored by Republicans and Democrats. ... If we could've just gotten two Republicans to have come across and voted for Paycheck Fairness, then the people that's working today could ask their co-workers or discuss with people at work how they're paid.

Granted, people don't share their pay because that's really a personal item, sometimes people feel like if they're not earning enough it's embarrassing or if they think they're earning a lot it will cause a problem to talk about it, but you could get a better idea without retaliation. And if there was retaliation, you've got a legal recourse to fall back on with Paycheck Fairness. That bill has been worked on for 15 years, and to get it passed we have to put the pressure on our senators in Washington, the people that we vote for and send up there.

***Indy*: You talk a lot about why this is a man's issue as much as it is a woman's issue. Can you explain that?**

LL: It's a family issue. ... Say a single mom is not paid fairly. She may have a dad. She may have a brother. This affects everybody. It also affects that person, whoever it is, that manages their own grocery store down the street. It affects the rental people, if she's renting. It affects everything because when people, when women and minorities are not compensated fairly and equitably, it affects everybody. And especially their family. ...

Last year I had a big speaking conference that I did, and the man said, "I wanted this person to kick off this conference, simply because I have two daughters." And he announced my name and that's all he said. And it was simply because he understands that those two daughters who have gone to college, have college degrees, they need to be paid the same as any male doing the job that they have.

***Indy*: What would you tell the average American sitting next to you on the airplane, one thing she could do today to make a difference?**

LL: Be active and know what your politicians are passing in your community, your state, your nation. Be involved.

***Indy*: Just one last thing. What's it like having your name on a bill?**

LL: Very humbling. It puts me in the history books. ... It's a responsibility that I have to live up to.

CAPSULE

Lilly Ledbetter

Monday, April 8, 7 p.m.

UCCS' Gallogly Events Center, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy.

Free. A $50-per-person private reception and book signing will be held on campus from 5:30-6:30 p.m. Reserve space at pikespeakwomen.org or through 502-1335.

— kakens@csindy.com

SEVEN DAYS TO LIVE

3 Wednesday

music

In a world full of neo-gypsy bands performing ironic covers of Queen and Talking Heads songs, you'd be forgiven for expecting **Chimney Choir**'s "Ace of Spades" to be an arch homage to the Motörhead anthem of the same name. Actually, it's just one of many eclectic originals on the Denver art-folk trio's beguiling debut album, recorded last year before a live audience in an old pipe-organ chapel. The group's broad musical scope is also reflected in its instrumentation, which ranges from flute to banjo, accordion to piano, even the occasional synthesizer and suitcase. Factor in the stunning three-part-harmonies that have made Chimney Choir and the Haunted Windchimes mutual admirers, and it can all get pretty magical. Catch them at 7:30 tonight for free at **Front Range Barbeque** (2330 W. Colorado Ave., frbbq.com). ***— BF***

4 Thursday

film

"You gotta get along with your ass." This is the best advice I could find on how to be a good pack burro racer. If that doesn't pique your interest in dragging a 500-pound donkey up and down a mountain, then maybe a whole film will. Tonight, **Stargazers Theatre & Event Center** (10 S. Parkside Drive, stargazerstheatre.com) hosts a screening at 7 of Trevor Velin's 2010 documentary, ***Haulin' Ass***, and special appearances by burro wranglers Hal Walter and Curtis Imrie. Get a close look at this quirky breed of "crazy" athlete and just what it takes to participate in Colorado's official state sport. Tickets are $10 in advance, $15 at the door. ***— MG***

Alberto Leopizzi

CAPSULE

Success of the Springs III

Saturday, April 6, 7:30 p.m.

Colorado College's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave.

Tickets: $20-$30, available at ticketswest.com; for more information, visit csdance.org.

Springs in their steps

Dancers return from far and wide to their hometown

It begins like any other day: wake up, get dressed, go to school. But after school, 13-year-old Alex De Herrera will gear up for an hour's drive north to the nearest dance studio, in Alamosa. Two hours of ballet lessons and another hour-long drive later, it's back to San Luis and into bed, maybe around 11 p.m.

This might sound overwhelming, for two days a week, but Alex wouldn't have it any other way. It's not just her talent in dance that drives her, but her affinity for it. At age 2 she would entertain customers in her family's coffee house.

"She would just dance around the shop," her grandmother, Meredith, explains over the phone. "So we went out and bought her a little pink tutu."

This Friday, Alex hopes to make it to the Springs to attend a master ballet class being taught at Colorado College by Caroline Diane Wilson (pictured) of the Washington Ballet. It's part of Colorado Springs Dance Theatre's *Success in the Springs III* weekend, which showcases dancers who grew up locally and now perform professionally around the country.

Wilson, who grew up in the Springs, is only 20. So it was just a few years ago that she was in De Herrera's position, putting in the time even when unsure of the payoff.

While living here, Wilson trained with Nancy Derby at Derby Dance & Music Arts, the Ballet Society of Colorado Springs, and the Zamuel Ballet School. At 14, while attending Air Academy High School, she was chosen to train at the National Ballet School of Canada. A year later, she moved to Germany to learn from famed dancer and choreographer John Cranko.

"It was scary," Wilson says from Washington, "but exciting." Three years in Stuttgart would prepare her for her first big break as a professional dancer, when she was invited to perform with the San Francisco Ballet Company.

"It was a real company, so you had to catch on quick," she says. "They just throw you into performances." Two years of cutting her teeth there propelled her to her current position.

Other featured dancers in Saturday's public recital include: Jennifer Aiken of the Boulder Ballet Company; Nicola Curry from American Ballet Theatre; Margaret Foy, a Denver Broncos cheerleader and adjunct professor at Pikes Peak Community College; Tara Masimer, who teaches dance in Amsterdam; and Graham Stockdale from Streb, a famous "extreme action" outfit in New York City.

In addition, CSDT also awards scholarships to young hopefuls; this year it will be awarding eight scholarships, four each in jazz and ballet. That could be De Herrera's next step.

— Miguel Bustamante

5 Friday

art

Punxsutawney Phil is catching hell for fraudulently predicting an early spring (Ohioans are *pissed*), but there are surer signs of warmer days out here, beginning with the **First Friday ArtWalk** in Old Colorado City (bestartontheavenue.com). From 5 to 8 tonight, and once a month through December, galleries along Colorado Avenue will debut work, lay out refreshments, and host artists who chat or demonstrate their craft. The vernal trend continues downtown, with the opening of ***Historical Curiosity: Works by Trevor Thomas*** in **S.P.Q.R.** (17B E. Bijou St.). Thomas' classically inspired work includes a rendition of Caravaggio's lush "Boy With a Basket of Fruit." See Thomas, and Reba Lee Savageau and Tom Vail, in the adjacent **Modbo** (17C E. Bijou St., themodbo.com) at 5:30. **— *EA***

6 Saturday

kids and family

As an English major who successfully slipped through four years of college without taking any science classes, I'm oddly fascinated by events like today's free **Big Cool Science Festival**. From 11 a.m. until 3 p.m. at Colorado College's **Barnes Science Center** (1040 N. Nevada Ave., coloradocollege.edu) folks from CC and 20-some local organizations will wow attendees with fire and dry ice chemistry demos, and offer hands-on activities for kids of all ages like making stethoscopes, playing with slime, and dissecting baby diapers. On second thought, I think I'll stick with Shakespeare and leave the nappies to those with stronger stomachs. **— *KA***

7 Sunday

stage

The woman in *Fifty Shades of Grey* has an "inner goddess" interrupting her interior monologues so annoyingly often, it's amazing the reader can stay focused long enough to masturbate. Luckily, that conundrum won't even be an option at ***SPANK!***, the musical parody of the best-selling erotic reinterpretation of the best-selling series about the physically and emotionally abusive relationship between a vampire and a high-schooler. No, *SPANK!* — debuting tonight at 6 at the **Pikes Peak Center** (190 S. Cascade Ave., pikespeakcenter.com) — promises to be full of allusions to the lighter sides of sadomasochism: "Your inner goddess will be laughing out loud," reads the release. Tickets start at $33. **— *BC***

8 Monday

fitness

I'll wager that your regular workout doesn't include aspects like "basic melee weapons training," "how to sneak up on zombies and hooligans" or "basic parkour." Sucks for you. Maybe you wanna check out the **Zombie Hero Workout** that's launching on Mondays and Wednesdays from 5 to 6:30 p.m. (as soon as 15 of you zombie enthusiasts sign up at helpzombies.com) in **Palmer Park** (3650 Maizeland Road). Local creator Kevin Bond calls the $30-per-month program a mix of 60 percent fitness and cardio, 30 percent zombie info and preparedness, and 10 percent self-defense. Shuffle and moan your way through his website for all the details. **— *MS***

9 Tuesday

film

También la Lluvia (*Even the Rain*) follows a film crew attempting to portray Christopher Columbus' arrival in the New World — while they shoot in a politically turbulent Bolivia. Think *Apocalypto* meets *Tropic Thunder*, but in Spanish. With less hilarity ensuing. The film will be shown for free at 7 tonight as part of Colorado College's Spanish Movie Night Series, at **Wyndom House** (1132 N. Cascade Ave., coloradocollege.edu). It stars Gael García Bernal (*The Motorcycle Diaries, Y Tu Mama Tambien?*) and is directed by Goya Award-winner Icíar Bollaín. There will be English subtitles. **— *MB***

Contributors: Edie Adelstein, Kirsten Akens, Miguel Bustamante, Bryce Crawford, Bill Forman, Matthew Grieson and Matthew Schniper.

LOOPING BACK

PPCC sets the stage for itself again, with O'Neill's *The Rope*

Theater is coming back to Pikes Peak Community College. Six years after its program was shut down, five students and members of local community theater group Springs Ensemble Theatre are collaborating this weekend on Eugene O'Neill's 1918 play *The Rope*.

The production is a misanthropic reshaping of Jesus' prodigal-son parable — instead of slaughtering a fattened calf, a father tries to convince his wandering son to hang himself. What the son doesn't know is that the father has tied the family's treasures to the other end of the rope.

Intriguing, no? Well, that's a given with O'Neill, a four-time Pulitzer Prize-winner who also grabbed the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1936. He may be best known for his Broadway comedy, *Ah, Wilderness!*, and many call him America's greatest playwright.

So PPCC is restarting from the top, but that's not to say it's all downhill from here. Within two years, the college — which hopes a theater program will help increase student enrollment and funds — will, according to dean of communication, humanities, and technical studies Taffy Mulliken, open a black-box theater near the Downtown Studio Campus on the old St. Mary's High School property. This building, purchased years ago, will also house classes and performances for music, fine arts and photography.

Also, new faces have been added, notably that of Joseph Hammond as theater department chair. Hammond organized all aspects of the upcoming production, designed lighting for shows and concerts, and volunteers as a member of SET, which is where the collaboration was born.

"It offers a chance for people to see [O'Neill's] less popular work," he says, "as well as offers five actors a chance to do a 45-minute play that has a *Twilight Zone* ending, [and] play the rich characters that compose O'Neill's work.

"Besides," he says, "We get to hang someone in the play, and that is always something to see."

— *Matthew Grieson*

CAPSULE

The Rope

Friday, April 5 and Saturday, April 6, 7:30 p.m., Sunday, April 7, 2 p.m.

Springs Ensemble Theatre, 1903 E. Cache la Poudre St.

Tickets: $5 (free on Sunday with a donation of canned food); for more information, visit tinyurl.com/d5t9mfq or call SET at 357-3080.

4Play

Other options to get you excited about your week.

Backup plan
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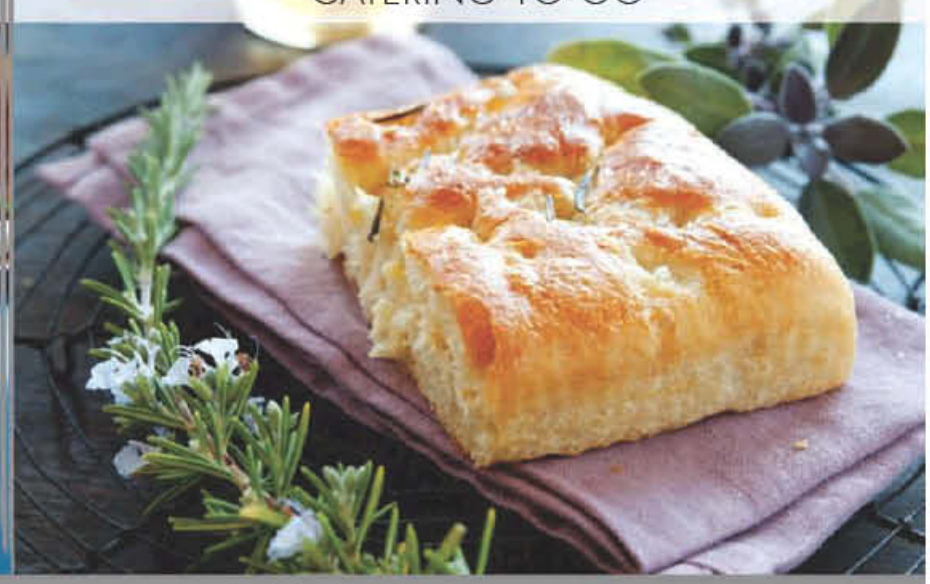

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Appetite

The new Saigon

West-side staple is reborn and relished across town

By Matthew Schniper

I am buried in seafood lightly lacquered in brown sauce and heaped high upon thin, crispy, chow mein-like wheat noodles. Dramatic shapes and angles collide at random: ribbed, mandoline-cut carrots; bushy, halved broccoli florets; round-edge button mushrooms; thick scallop wheels; tubular squid strips curled and scored with a crosshatch pattern; green-lipped mussel shells protruding with their soft cargo like miniature versions of docked, open-domed alien spacecraft.

Matthew Schniper

There are plenty more fish in the sea. But five marine species collide here with lovely results.

Textures predictably contrast from chewy (mussels and imitation crab) to chewier (squid) to lobster-like (prawns) to buttery (scallops) to fibrously crisp (veggies) to full-on crunchy (the hard noodles). Hoisin sauce adds a faint sweetness and touch of mud coloring to a chicken stock's foundational flavoring and opaque sheen.

Nothing is too sticky, too cloying or too airport-kiosk-stir-fry-esque. There's no MSG to counterfeit the *umami*, and for a brown-sauce dish stocked with so much seafood, it's remarkably light.

This, friends, is the *Mi Xao Don Do Bien* ($13.95) from Saigon Grill's 160-dish-deep menu, updated since last month's reopen in this former Subs & Such spot.

In December, after nearly 10 years at 31st Street and Colorado Avenue, Hui Jo wasn't able to renew her lease there. The chatty and abundantly sweet owner initially considered closing for good, and actually forfeited her liquor license (meaning no hooch currently). But it's clear that she and her equally charming 16-year-old son Andy, who's helped wait tables since he was a small boy, belong in the business.

Faithful clientele seem to cross town partly for their wide smiles and playful banter. And the new digs do look great, with beautiful mother-of-pearl inlaid block prints adorning beige walls, and a 50-gallon fish tank and *Maneki-neko* (waving-cat figurine) brightening a front counter area.

But there are other "chef specialties" on the menu that make a compelling case to dine, irrespective of the warm staff. The roasted duck ($16.95/half, $28.95/whole), bathed in its own brown sauce, texturally fluctuates between crispy skin and sinuous meat with varying pockets of succulent fat, garnished with carrot strands and cilantro leaves.

Soups are also standouts: The egg drop and hot-and-sour (included with $5.95 to $6.25 lunch specials) are both much better than average. And the *Mong Cua* for two ($6.95), a viscous, clear, foamy broth thickened by egg flour, elegantly highlights the subtlety of grated white asparagus complemented by chopped white and green onions, shrimp and krab with a whisper of sesame oil in the finish.

For apps, porky, crisp, pan-seared pot stickers (listed as fried dumplings, $4.95) and Vietnamese rice-paper-and-pork egg rolls (three for $6.25) served with wet lettuce leaves and cilantro for wrapping are both infallible.

The Mongolian Beef at lunch ($5.95) sports good wok's breath, ranking perfectly standard. We did, however, miss fresh mint and more generous peanuts on our shrimp and egg roll *bun* (rice noodle bowl, $8.95), which otherwise was fine in its fishy, nicely under-sweet *nuoc cham* sauce. That sauce is key to enlivening the *Com Suon Nuong* ($8.95), grill-striped pork chops that come with a brown-rice option.

Thai iced tea ($2.95) and Café Du Monde iced coffee ($3.50), again because of milder-than-most sweetness, surpass standard fare. And seeing as how most of Saigon Grill's menu does, there should be no concern for its vitality on the east side, its new lease on restaurant life.

CAPSULE

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— matthew@csindy.com

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SIDE Dish

Culinary crumbs & gastronomic gossip

Crimson craft (brew)

You could call them "gun bunnies," but "red legs" apparently is a more historically accurate nickname for Army artillerymen — drawn from the smoky battlefields of the Civil War, where crimson pant stripes aided in being seen.

As for **Red Leg Brewing Co.** (redlegbrewco.com, soon), aiming to open by July 1 at 4630 Forge Road, off Garden of the Gods Road, founder Todd Baldwin says the name is indeed meant to resonate with military folk. He's one of them — a former Army officer — as is veteran and brewmaster Jeff Lockhart, formerly of Ouray Brewery as well as Pueblo's Shamrock Brewing Co.

"We loved our time in the military," says Baldwin. "We want to give back to charities and get the military involved."

One idea is to encourage current active-duty folks to help name seasonal specialty beers via contests, ultimately paying homage to their respective units (think: "Peterson AFB Porter" for example) and raising money for families of the deployed.

Another is to join regular civilians in the 50-ish-seat taproom for five flagship beers that will likely include an IPA, amber, brown and stout, as well as a special pilsner from a 1911 recipe: "If you were in the Army in World War I, you drank this," say Baldwin, who's enthusiastic about drawing in military history as a thematic framework.

Red Leg aims from the get-go to produce kegs for distribution, and tentatively plans to add a canning line by year's end.

À la carte

• In early May, **Colorado Coffee Merchants** (coloradocoffeemerchants.com) plans to expand by another 700 square feet into an adjoining storefront (formerly a tax office) at 302 E. Fillmore St. New total square footage for the business: around 2,500 feet.

Owner Eric Umenhofer anticipates around a month of interior renovation (during which the business will remain open as usual) to create a coffee lab of sorts. The vision is to use it as an espresso training bar and demonstration area, where Umenhofer and Co. can educate staffers of wholesale accounts (i.e. restaurants who serve CCM's Ümpire Estate or Idle Truck brands) as well as the public through special samplings.

Umenhofer says he'll likely purchase an additional grinder and another Nuova Simonelli Italian espresso machine to outfit the venture, which, ultimately, he hopes will "build a greater coffee community."

• **Swirl Wine Bar** (717 Manitou Ave., #102, Manitou Springs, swirlismybar.com) closed its retail-front emporium last month and will convert the space into more seating this month. On May 1, it will launch lunch hours starting at noon, providing more time to order the paninis, soups, salads and house-baked pastries that have joined the long-standing charcuterie plates. The eatery closes at 10 p.m. weekdays; midnight, weekends.

— Matthew Schniper

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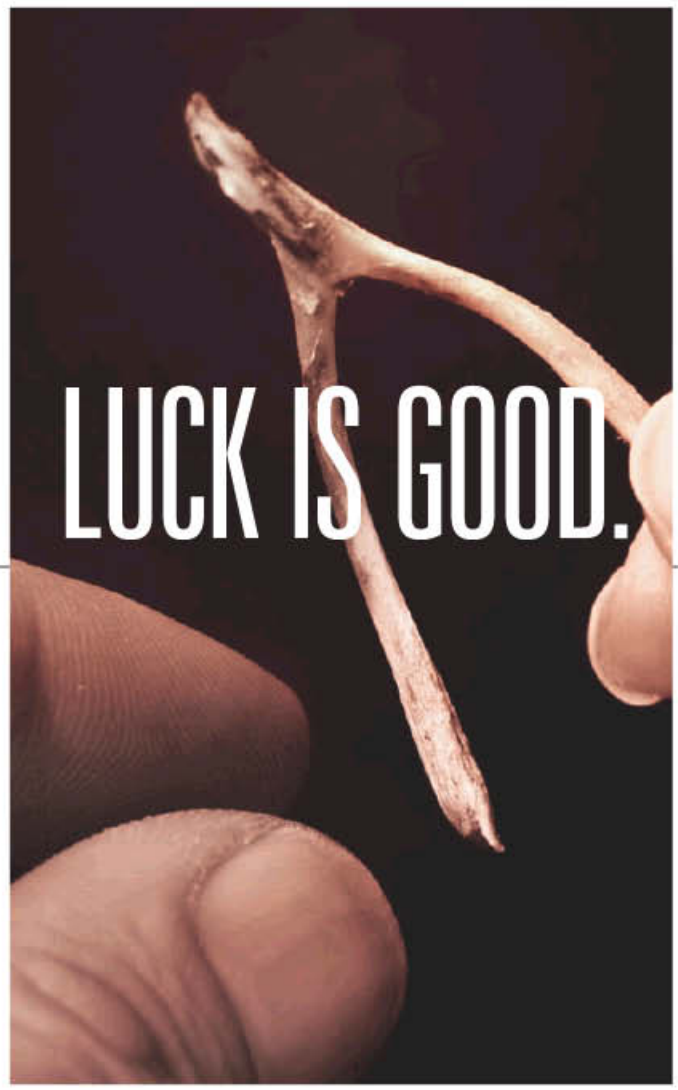

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Café 36 at the FAC

30 W. Dale St., 477-4377, csfineartscenter.org/cafe36.asp

Since the Pinery's merger with Garden of the Gods Gourmet last fall, executive chef Larissa Vendola (formerly Warner) is back in charge at the FAC kitchen, where she ruled post-Ben Hoffer, pre-Amuzé. Her menu (with additional items coming later this month) in part works to spotlight items such as Pinery pastry chef Sue Sanicky's excellent focaccia rolls.

Those highlight Vendola's twist on a Cuban sandwich, the **Café Cubano** ($12), which uses GOGG spicy pickles and subs breaded pork cutlets for the typical mojo-cured tenderloin. Side garlic-herb fries with Sriracha aioli are *ah*-mazing. A special of **Laughing Lab marinated flank steak** ($15) with sweet potato fries, Colombian-style Aji sauce (jalapeño relish) and guacamole (limier and looser) plus chili oil equally kicks artsy ass. Eat with the perfectly non-sweet **agave mint iced tea** and a superb **Serranos Coffee** ($2.50 each). — ***Matthew Schniper***

The House Chef Shoppe

50 S. Sierra Madre St., 964-0234, coloradohousechef.com

The House Chef Shoppe, a creation of in-home chef Robert Brunet that's located next to the deceased Giuseppe's Old Depot Restaurant, is very much built for the grab-and-go buyer. And with full wood-paneling, office chairs and a desk, the place looks more like the union headquarters for Local No. 58 than a place to get Pappardelle's Pasta. But bags of it cover one table, with jars of Chef Brunet's Gumbo Roux on another.

Food-wise, after an annoying bit wherein we couldn't pay with a credit card because of some temporary problem, then needed exact change, we bought a perfectly average deli sandwich branded as a **muffaletta** ($6). There was ham, salami, Provolone, Swiss and a scattered nod to olive salad, but even beyond the lack of the traditional large, round loaf, it was nothing that would take you back to the Crescent City. That said, it didn't suck to eat, either. — ***Bryce Crawford***

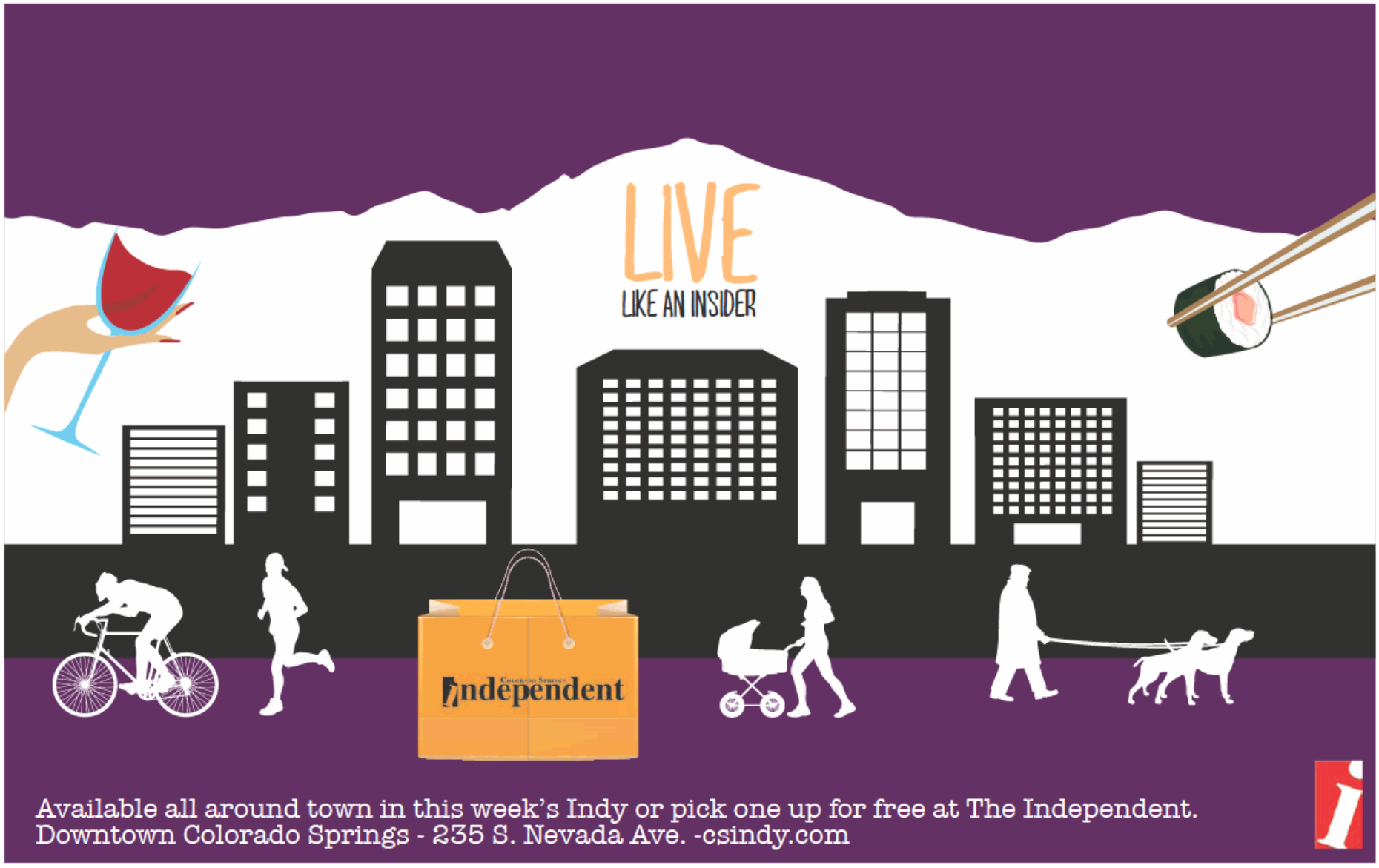
The Sugarplum Cake Shoppe & The Chocoholic

412 S. Eighth St., sugarplumcakeshoppe.com, thechocoholic-co.com

Sugarplum and Chocoholic took over this space around a year ago, each operating its own alluring pastry case.

From Sugarplum, which specializes in wedding cakes, I grab cookies ($1 each), brownies ($2.50 each) and a pinwheel-shaped apricot turnover ($2.25). The turnover's puff pastry is on the lesser-baked side, enjoyed greatly by a co-worker; the cookies are a home-style step-up from grocery delis but not a standout; and the brownies best the batch, with potent turtle (pecan-caramel) and grasshopper (synth-mint) varieties.

Chocoholic's old-fashioned cream and peanut butter cups ($1.13 per ounce), both bearing imperfect, by-hand shapes, are semi-hard chocolates revealing soft, sweet innards. A rich cinnamon-bun truffle ($1.25) tastes kinda like its namesake if you think really hard about it while chewing. — ***Matthew Schniper***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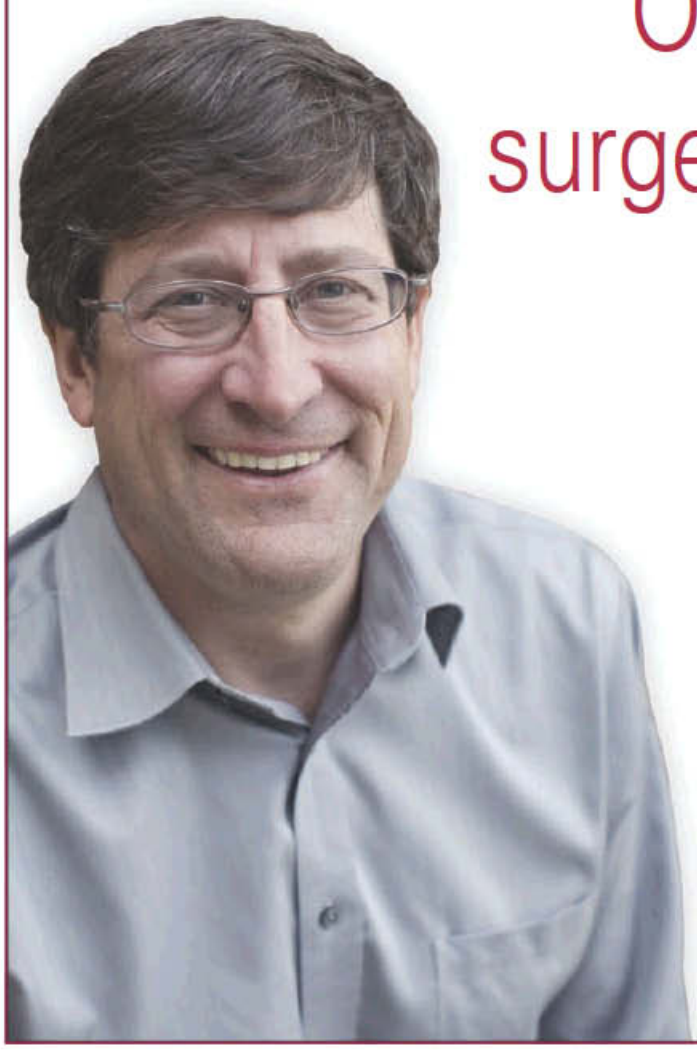

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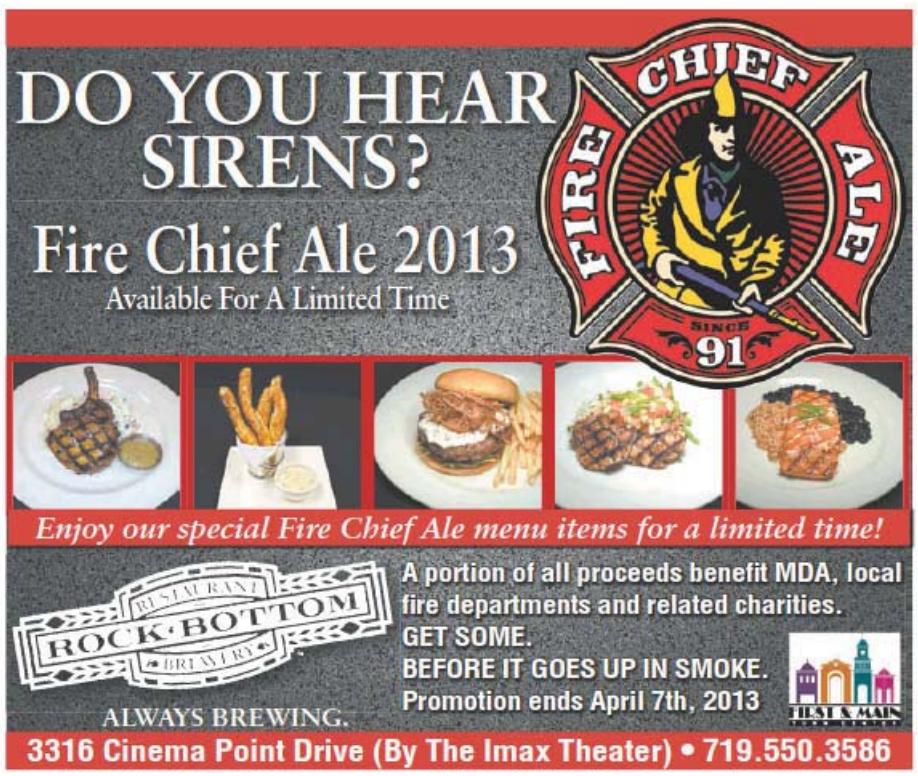
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Film

Ridiculous resurrection

Evil Dead (R)

By MaryAnn Johanson

It's "the most terrifying film you will ever experience," *Evil Dead* would have us believe via its movie poster.

In case the demon head coming out of the floor doesn't make it perfectly obvious:* Evil Dead *is stupid and sucky.

Is it gory? Sure. This is one of the most disgusting movies I've ever seen, grading strictly on a scale of blood and guts. But terrifying? Hardly. Unless there's some fright to be found in how damn depressing it is to see Hollywood once again attempt to recapture the glory of the past instead of doing something new.

It's even more depressing when the original 1981 *Evil Dead*, from writer and director Sam Raimi, was a reaction to a lack of creativity in horror films. How the hell could Raimi give his stamp of approval to this slap in the face to his own work? (Raimi doesn't merely approve — he's a producer and so helped get this made.) How the hell could he not have understood that what made his film work so well was that his lack of a reasonable filmmaking budget forced him to be wildly inventive?

This is why it was almost inevitable that any remake of *Evil Dead* was going to feel bland and generic.

Because everything that made *Evil Dead* unique has long since been co-opted by the genre and had its uniqueness squeezed out of it by rote repetition. This is *exactly* the sort of movie that last year's ingenious *Cabin in Woods* rendered wholly irrelevant, precisely because it was itself a reaction to all the *Evil Dead* copycats we've endured over the past 30 years.

And so it is a flat and flavorless band of twentysomethings who head to a cabin in the woods, where they will be slaughtered by demons. The script, by director Fede Alvarez, Rodo Sayagues and the increasingly overrated Diablo Cody, has to invent a new reason for said twentysomethings to head to said cabin — and then stay there, even when demonic shit starts to hit the fan. It's this: One of them (Jane Levy) is going cold turkey on her drug habit.

There's some thematic potential in the notion that drug addiction and withdrawal is akin to demonic possession, but that's not dealt with in any interesting way here. It cannot be, as long as the demonic possession is actually supposed to be real, and not a metaphoric thing.

It's real, of course, coming via a book of dark-magic spells and other nasty stuff that gets read by the gang even though it's wrapped in barbed wire and has "Leave this book alone" written on it in blood. These kids are dumb, naturally, and partly as a consequence also not very interesting.

"I can smell your filthy soul," the demon in the body of one of the Scooby gang hisses at another, and gee, wouldn't it be interesting if we too got a hint of that filthy soul? That could be an intriguing twist: Maybe these younglings deserve to die at the hands of vengeful demons. But no. They really are nothing more than fodder for demonic attack.

As it turns out, the demons prove pretty easy to dispatch, though not until most of them are already dead. Sucks for them.

Sucks for us, too. We really have seen this all before.

— scene@csindy.com

RatingsWrapUp

	Indy	Hollywood Reporter	Rotten Tomatoes	Variety
Evil Dead (R)				
G.I. Joe: Retaliation (PG-13)		NOT REVIEWED		NOT REVIEWED
The Incredible Burt Wonderstone (PG-13)				
On the Road (R)				
Stoker (R)				

KEY: Brilliant | Enjoy | Wait for DVD | Lame

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CineFiles

The Big Picture (NR)

MPI Pictures

America gave up a long time ago trying to craft Hitchcockian thrillers, instead happily just focusing on the titillation of sex and violence, forgetting about the mystery of the hows and the whys altogether. But the French have taken up the mantle, as seen in recent films like *Tell No One*, *Hidden* and *The Big Picture*, the latest effort from director Eric Lartigau. Parisian lawyer and family man Paul (Romain Duris) is a walking fraud, holding up appearances for the sake of his family and career, but, inside, secretly longing to be a cool, easy-going dude like his photojournalist neighbor Greg. When Greg is found murdered, Paul is implicated and the movie becomes a twisting character study as Paul goes on the lam to start a new life, one that's not his own. Even though Paul thinks that he's free, he learns that no one ever truly is, turning *The Big Picture* into quite the gripping, paranoid thriller. — ***Louis Fowler***

Knuckleball! (NR)

MPI Home Video

Ricki Stern and Anne Sundberg's new documentary is like a close cousin of their other recent doc, *Joan Rivers: A Piece of Work*. Both concern subjects that have been derided by critics as loopy, freakish relics that, against all odds, persevere. Like Rivers, the knuckleball — a seldom-employed pitching technique that can strike out the best batter when executed correctly, or, when not, could be hit out of the park by a waterboy — is perennially on the verge of extinction. The film follows the only two players using the grip during the 2011 baseball season: the Red Sox's Tim Wakefield and the Mets' R.A. Dickey. The pair's reverence for the pitch's mysteries is infectious. At times, *Knuckleball!*'s tone recalls the artisanal philosophy of 2011's *Jiro Dreams of Sushi*. Though the film plays best for baseball diehards, the directors' careful consideration of the game's mental aspect adds a level of universal interest. — ***Justin Strout***

The Devil's in the Details (R)

Image Entertainment

Ray Liotta continues his stellar run as the king of straight-to-DVD action-thrillers with the diabolically entertaining *The Devil's in the Details*. And while he doesn't play a grizzled, crooked cop in this one, he goes one better (and more unbelievable) and guests as grizzled veteran Navy SEAL Bruce Michaels. (What an action movie name!) Michaels must help fellow veteran Thomas (Joel Mathews), fresh from a brutal tour of duty, get out of a mess with a Mexican drug cartel that will torture and murder his family if he doesn't help mule a fortune in drugs across the border. Before you can say "Thank you for your service," they team up and take on the home-front war with explosive results. Director Waymon Boone does a good job of masking the film's low budget with clever action sequences and an engaging story of revenge; it's a fun action flick that delivers the goods. — ***Louis Fowler***

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PikespeakEarthday.org is the go-to website for Pikes Peak Earth Month! April has become a month to celebrate our daily endeavors toward sustainability through local actions. It's also a great time to reach out to those who may not be aware of the benefits of making smart choices about the Earth and its resources, to share our collective knowledge, and increase our connection with our community and the Earth. Check out our Community Calendar of events going on throughout April at our website www. pikespeakEarthday.org and find us on Facebook at Pikes Peak Earth Day!

April is Earth Month and it's the perfect time to make a change in your life that will benefit our planet. Think about your daily impact on the environment; which area(s) would you like to improve on? What will you pledge to do this Earth Month? Consider transportation, water, energy, food, and recycling and see what your family can do better this year. Make your pledge at the kick-off event then post a photo of your pledge in action online at our Pikes Peak Earth Day Facebook page and become eligible for some great green prizes! If you have any questions, details are on our website.

PPED KICK-OFF PARTY COME JOIN US!
SATURDAY, APRIL 6TH

Location: Northeast corner of Colorado College campus in the Barnes Science Center and Olin Hall from 11am-3pm.

Pikes Peak Earth Day partners kick off the month at The Big Cool Science Festival. Come to the Northeast corner of Colorado College campus in the Barnes Science Center and Olin Hall from 11am-3pm. We'll have over 25 interactive, sustainable hands-on activities from our many community partners. Plus learn about our Community Grant and make your Earth Month Pledge! We encourage using green transportation: walk, carpool, take the bus or ride your bike and park in the free bike valet! Details at www.coolscience.org and www.pikespeakEarthday.org.

FASHION FOR THE FOREST 2013 VEDA ANNUAL FASHION SHOW AND GREENIE AWARDS
SUNDAY, APRIL 28TH

Location: Stargazers Theater and Event Center

This is the show of the year to include fashion, music, and dance all to support the Waldo Canyon restoration programs through the Rocky Mountain Field Institute. Plus the Pikes Peak Earth Day committee will announce the 2013 Earth Day Community Grant recipient. Tickets available for purchase at all Colorado Springs Veda Salons. Vote for greenie awards at csindy.com beginning on April 1, 2013.

pikes peak Earth Day

VEDA SALON & SPA

PPED COMMUNITY GRANT - FIND OUT THE WINNER APRIL 28TH!

Location: Come to the April 28th Fashion for the Forest event and find out in person!

We are proud to award our 3rd Annual Pikes Peak Earth Day Community Grant. This grant, up to $5000, funds one project in the Pikes Peak region that meets our mission to "celebrate our Earth by enhancing awareness and inspiring personal and community action toward a sustainable future." Past winners have been Care & Share Food Bank for Southern Colorado and Pikes Peak Community College. Care & Share, along with other community partners, built a fully off-grid solar greenhouse to grow fresh vegetables for our community in need. PPCC installed 6 water hydration stations on their campuses, which have resulted in 67,000+ hydration station REUSABLE water bottle fills. Who will win for 2013?!

For Event location & time details go online at www.pikespeakearthday.org

Date	Name of Event	Host
April	Garden of the Gods Trail Restoration (every weekend except April 20)	Rocky Mountain Field Institute
	Waldo Canyon Fire Mitigation (every Friday except April 19)	Rocky Mountain Field Institute
	Birding for Beginners 101 Course at Bear Creek: multiple dates Apr-May	El Paso County Nature Centers
	Fountain Creek Nature Adventures: Children's Nature programs throughout April	El Paso County Nature Centers
	Bear Creek Nature Adventures: Children's Nature programs throughout April	El Paso County Nature Centers
4/6/2013	Earth Month Kick-off at the Big Cool Science Festival	Pikes Peak Earth Day Committee
	AIA Colorado South Box City for Kids	American Institute of Architects Colorado South
	Guardians of Palmer Park Work Day	Guardians of Palmer Park
4/10 & 4/24	UpaDowna Bicycle Joy Ride/ Also on April 24th!	UpaDowna
4/13/2013	El Paso County Household Hazardous Waste Collection	El Paso County
	Water Stewardship Day at Fountain Creek Nature Center	El Paso County Nature Centers
	Raising Backyard Chickens	Pikes Peak Community Foundation
	Woodland Park Panthers Recycling Event and Fundraiser	Woodland Park Panthers Recycling
	Catamount Institute's Young Environmental Stewards Symposium	Catamount Institute
4/17/2013	Incline Friends Breakfast Fundraiser	Incline Friends
4/19/2013	Spring Cleaning: A Pikes Peak Sustainability Business Network Workshop	Catamount Institute
4/20/2013	Southern Colorado Great Cloth Diaper Change	Eco baby
	Ute Valley Park Earth Day Event	Friends of Ute Valley
	Garden of the Gods Earth Day Celebration/Earth Day Walk at Rock Ledge	Garden of the Gods Visitor and Nature Center
	North Cheyenne Cañon Trail and Park Clean-Up	Friends of Cheyenne Cañon
	Guardians of Palmer Park Work Day	Guardians of Palmer Park
	Red Rocks Earth Day Hike and Trail Clean Up	UpaDowna and Trails and Open Space Coalition
	Dinosaur Resource Center Earth Day Celebration	Dinosaur Resource Center
	An Earth Day Concert at Woodland Park Library	Woodland Park Library
4/21/2013	Healing the Earth	The Havest Center
	Big Mountain Trail Run and Earth Day Celebration!	Big Mountain Adventure
	A Night of Energy at Ivywild School	UCCS - Colorado Public Interest Research Group (COPIRG)
	Mueller State Park Earth Day Celebration	Mueller State Park
4/22/2013	Wild and Scenic Film Festival Tour	Colorado College and the Sierra Club
4/23/2013	Earth Day Film Screening "Growthbusters: Hooked on Growth" at Penrose Library	Pikes Peak Library District
4/24/2013	PPCC Earth Day and Trash Art Competition	Pikes Peak Community College
	Veda Balloon Pop	Veda Salons and Spa
	Better Energy & Environment Roundtable (BEER) at Ivywild	SunShare
4/25/2013	Organic & Sustainable Wine and Food Tasting	Catamount Institute/Downtown Fine Sprits & Wine
4/27/2013	Tackle the Trash! Countywide Clean Up Event!	El Paso County
	Colorado Springs Recycles at Blue Star Recyclers	Blue Star Recyclers
	Clear Spring Ranch Heron Homecoming Bird Walk	El Paso County Nature Centers
	Guided Birding Hike at Pinello Ranch	Pikes Peak Community Foundation
4/28/2013	5th Annual Veda Greenie Awards and Fashion for the Forest | Restoring Waldo Canyon	

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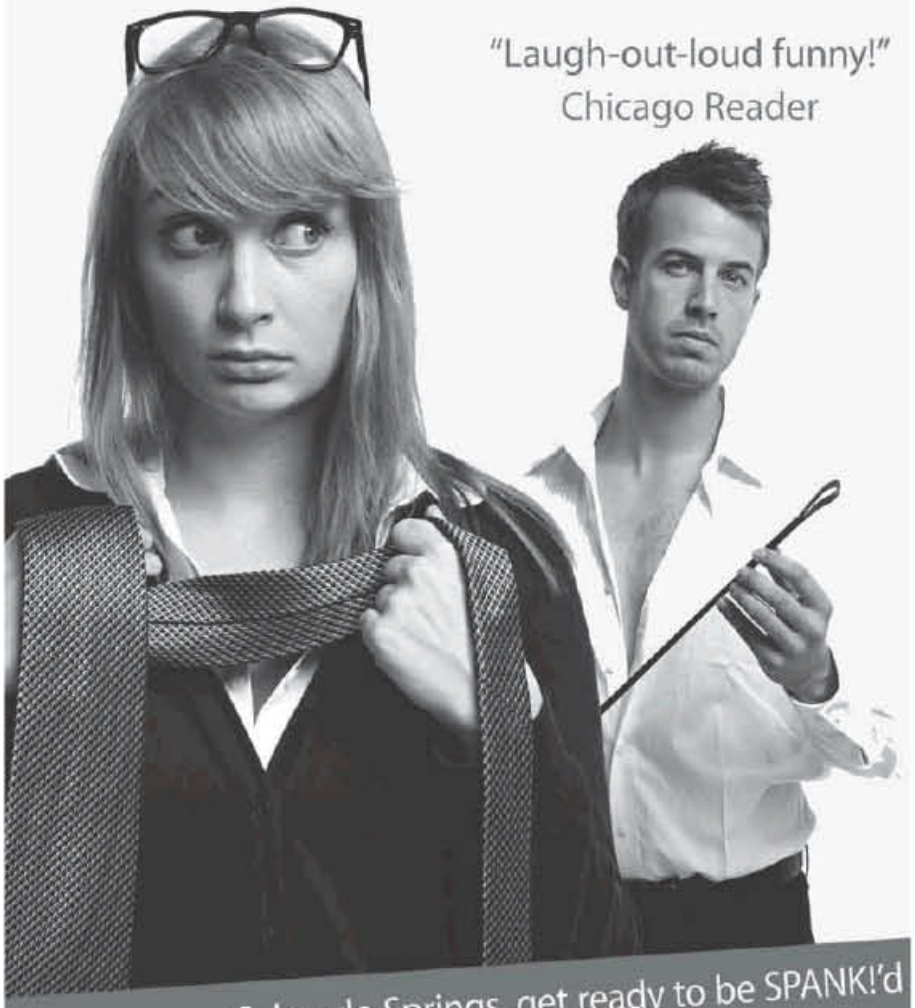

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FinePrint

Of gods and minds

Neurobiologist Robert Sapolsky spreads the good word about brains on religion

By Bret Wright

To Dr. Robert Sapolsky, the question of religion isn't whether "God" or gods exist. It's more along the lines of, as he says, "How would a stridently atheistic scientist use neurobiology to make sense out of religion?

Stanford News Agency

Sapolsky: Not a believer.

"This is irresistible for a neurobiologist," he continues, "but it would be just as easy to try to make sense out of atheism."

The Stanford University professor of biological and neurological studies and author of six books, who will speak Wednesday, April 3 at Colorado College, wasn't always "stridently atheist."

Raised as a ritualistic Orthodox Jew, a young Sapolsky thoroughly believed his religion. "When I was about 14, something happened. It was a moment of sheer, inexplicable ... whatever ... that happened, and it all didn't make sense. I couldn't believe any longer."

As strident as he is now about disbelieving, Sapolsky is just as vocal about wanting to understand people's needs in this area. In short: He's not Christopher Hitchens. He doesn't try to lambast the religious for their beliefs. He's been trying to grasp religion in terms of neurobiology since research for his 1997 book of essays, *The Trouble With Testosterone: And Other Essays on the Biology of the Human Predicament*.

"The last piece in *The Trouble With Testosterone* [called "Circling the Blanket for God"] is the basis of about half the talk I'll be giving at Colorado College," he says. "... I anticipate lots and lots of eggshells, but I'm not out to step on them."

Serving a purpose

As an adult, Sapolsky's been asked how a person can be a scientist and *not* be religious. Pairing the two, he says, is "easy if you can do the contortions. But if you study the neurology of the human brain, it's impossible."

Religion, he says, serves a lot of purposes. He says most atheists don't like to hear it, but religion does make people healthy. "It makes you feel better. It tends to decrease anxiety, and it gets you a community."

On another note, the larger the culture, the better the chance it will generate a religion that helps control the people. "Desert peoples tend to adopt monotheism. Deserts seem to induce the idea of singular absolutes." Cultures from less restrictive environs such as jungles and forests tend to produce polytheistic religions, he says.

Religions also allow individuals the ability to speak in terms that would otherwise be considered odd. "Meta-magical talk," which includes things like raising people from the dead, and other miracles and magic, "is one domain of religion. It's what allows someone like former First Lady Nancy Reagan to consult with psychics and tarot readers, and still be taken seriously in the fashion pages," says Sapolsky.

Of course, from a neurobiological perspective, "meta-magical talk shares a remarkable fit with schizotypal disorder," he says, noting that schizotypal disorder is not schizophrenia. According to the *Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders*, people with schizotypal disorder may be unusually superstitious or preoccupied with paranormal phenomena that are outside the norms of their subculture.

Ritual rings true

Another domain of religiosity Sapolsky has studied is its ritualistic aspect. He says there are basically four types of rituals: self-cleansing, food preparation and other preparations devoted to everyday living, entering and leaving places, and numerology and symmetry. "All of them are astonishingly close fits to OCD [obsessive-compulsive disorder]. It's a good match."

That doesn't mean practitioners can necessarily be diagnosed with OCD, he adds, although many people with that condition find comfort in the rituals that are part of many religions. "When you look at where religions come from," he says, "my guess is that charismatic OCD individuals were involved in the inception of these [rituals]. They were highly influential people who stepped into the breach at the right time."

For centuries, theologians have warned followers to be on the lookout for scrupulosity, "which," says Sapolsky, "was probably their term for OCD." He says that St. Ignatius of Loyola, and Mohammed himself, warned of becoming overly constrained by rules for their own sake.

In the end, Sapolsky says, humans are animals, byproducts of the same sorts of nuts and bolts as every other animal. And there is something in our shared brain chemistry that demands some sort of creator or being to which we can ascribe all of our worries, victories and shortcomings.

"Humans," he says, "are just another animal with wants and needs."

— scene@csindy.com

CAPSULE

"Religion and Religiosity: A Jaundiced Neurobiological Perspective" by Dr. Robert Sapolsky

Wednesday, April 3, 7 p.m.

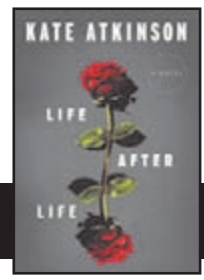
Colorado College's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave.

Free; visit coloradocollege.edu or call 389-6607 for more information.

ShortStories

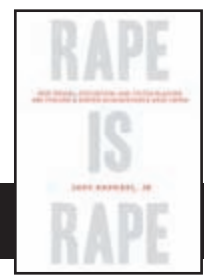
Wave
Sonali Deraniyagala
Knopf, $24/hardcover

This memoir by a survivor of the 2004 Asian tsunami is a great yawp of grief. On the morning of the tsunami, Sonali Deraniyagala was on Sri Lanka's southern coast with her parents, husband and two young children. She alone survived. What emerges in *Wave* is the story of that raw edge of grief — which presents often and early as rage — eventually muted to a dim thrumming of continual mourning. It is, though, not as wild and disorganized as this description might sound. Even though Deraniyagala moves back and forth through her life in trying to explain what she's lost, she has a remarkable sense of narrative that keeps things well in hand. That makes *Wave* much like the two memoirs of grief by Joan Didion — but sharper, angrier, as clear as the gorgeous morning when Deraniyagala lost the entire world. ***— Kel Munger***



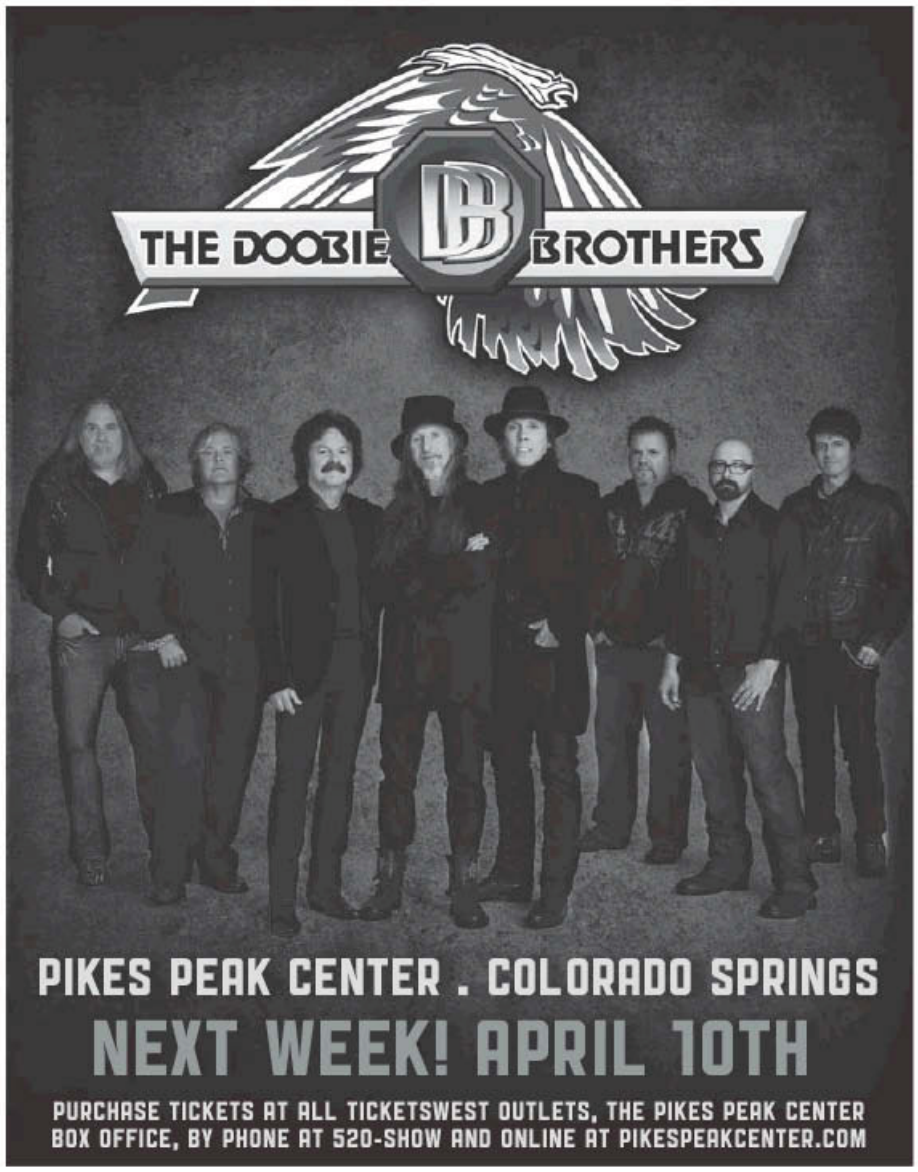
Life After Life: A Novel
Kate Atkinson
Reagan Arthur Books, $27.99/hardcover

The premise of *Life After Life*, British novelist Kate Atkinson's ninth book, might lead some readers to think it's "science fiction." It is, but only in the largest sense. While Atkinson never invokes the apparatus of the multiple universes theory, she does use it as a starting point for her protagonist, Ursula Todd, who is born and dies seconds later, and is also born and gives a healthy wail. Starting with Todd's 1910 birth — and death, and birth — the novel follows her lives and deaths through a multiplicity of possibilities, including the possibility of averting some of the worst events of the 20th century. It is, ultimately, a discussion of fate and the individual, which makes this speculative fiction that, like the best work of Margaret Atwood, is also philosophical and deeply unsettling. ***— Kel Munger***



Rape Is Rape
Jody Raphael, J.D.
Chicago Review Press, $18.95/paperback

It's tempting to suggest that, given the recent discussion surrounding the conviction of two Ohio teenagers for sexually assaulting a girl who was too drunk to stand up, then taking and posting pictures, that this book is especially timely. Unfortunately, this book would be timely no matter when it was published. Jody Raphael, an attorney specializing in violence against women, takes an evidence-based approach to indicting our culture for facilitating rape by creating a cocoon of denial about both incidence and severity of sexual assault. The bottom line — that acquaintances commit most rapes and that society only treats "stranger rape" as "legitimate," to borrow a phrase — makes it clear that we still have a long way to go before women are able to live their lives with the same freedom so routine that most men take it for granted. ***— Kel Munger***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AudioFile

Apathy exhibition

Iceage on political ennui and Joy Division comparisons

By Tom Lanham

Danish proto-punk quartet Iceage formed when its members were all still in high school. But they knew they had something special from the very beginning, swears drummer Dan Kjær Nielsen, now a wise old 21. "I thought we were really good at writing songs and that we could become something great," he says of what would soon morph into a Copenhagen music movement called The New Way of Danish Fuck You. "And not to sound too full of myself, but I think that we *are* great. I think we're the best band around, and not just in Denmark — pretty much everywhere. I just think that we're doing something that I haven't seen done."

Griffin Shot

Iceage and compatriates see themselves as part of 'The New Way of Danish Fuck You.'

'I don't think we look to anyone for inspiration.'

Nielsen has a point. Anchored by a buzzsawing Tasmanian devil of a frontman named Elias Bender Rønnenfelt, Iceage brings a certain Joy Division-stark passion to its bludgeoning 2011 debut *New Brigade* and the new, more expansive and experimental followup *You're Nothing*. But that's about the only frame of reference that's applicable. And yes, sighs Nielsen distractedly, he used to like Joy Division. "When I was younger — I don't enjoy them that much anymore. But I don't think we look to anyone for inspiration. Well, of course we DO. But I mean we just don't try to sound like other bands."

And it's not a punk revival, the Copenhagen scene, although there are some parallels. The Sex Pistols had anger as a motivator and the Malcolm McLaren/Vivienne Westwood boutique SEX as a hipster hangout. Iceage and its peers were whelped from political apathy and ennui, and they have several spinoff combos to reflect varying degrees of angst. (Nielsen and Iceage bassist Jakob Tvilling Pless just formed an even heavier, more aggressive group dubbed Sejr, which means 'Victory' in Danish).

Disaffected Danes also have a local haunt — the Posh Isolation record label and shop, where kids can check out the latest music, books and magazines. "They just carry stuff that's probably hard to find elsewhere and that they feel is related to what they're doing," Nielsen explains. "I'm not part of that label, but they're my friends and I think what they're doing is great."

As for politics, his generation couldn't care less, says Nielsen, who's noticed nothing remarkable about Denmark's right-to-left-shifting government. "I don't think there's been any change at all apart from the faces you see on TV. It's pretty much the same, and I don't think it has any effect on us — it's just more guys in suits saying more boring stuff."

What are Iceage's brutal salvos about then? The chugging "Coalition," says Nielsen, is about social media and "people trying to get in touch with you in an excessive way." The brontosaurus-plodding "Morals," he says, "isn't about traditional morals — it's about sticking to what you believe in." And *You're Nothing*'s roiling title track? "That song's about how everything can be a bit meaningless sometimes."

So does the band have an agenda, a game plan? Just one, says Nielsen, one of three Iceage members who still live at home with his parents. "My parents think it's great, you know, and they miss me when I'm away. But now I'm 21 years old, and I'd really like to have a place of my own where I can do what I want."

CAPSULE

Iceage, with Merchandise, Wet Hair

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Tickets: $12/adv, $14/door, all ages; sodajerkpresents.com.

— scene@csindy.com

AudioFile

Twist of Lyme

Deer Tick's sound and spirits continue to grow stronger

By Chris Parker

It was six years ago that Deer Tick released its first album, showcasing a blend of punk swagger and alt-country twang, soul-baring intensity and alcohol-fueled exuberance. Since then, the Providence, Rhode Island, band's sound has continued to evolve across four full-length albums, most recently downplaying country and heartland elements in favor of mercurial rock that's by turns moody and exuberant.

Scott Alario

Deer Tick: More schizophrenic than ever.

"This time around we were looking to go into a situation completely open-minded and try anything," says Deer Tick keyboardist Rob B. Crowell during a break from recording the band's next album with producer and arranger Steve Berlin. "He's rearranged a lot of the songs in a dramatically different way than the demos were. He had some pretty insane suggestions, but I think it all worked out."

So what exactly will *this* Deer Tick album sound like? "It's interesting, there are a lot of different textures on there," says Crowell. "It draws on everything from Gerry Rafferty to the Misfits. Those are two direct references we used for a couple songs. At this point we're open to trying everything and letting it all hang out."

Of course, the band wasn't exactly shy and reserved on 2011's *Divine Providence*, its most boisterous and eclectic release to date. "When we did *Divine Providence*, we were trying very hard to get the live band experience," Crowell explains. "We've released a lot of albums that are quiet and introspective. Then we do a lot of shows that are petty loud, brash and in your face. It was an attempt to reconcile the two."

Deer Tick is currently supporting *Tim*, a five-song release highlighted by the spooky, cello-driven ballad "She's Not Spanish" and the slow-burning six-minute organ rocker "Walls." The EP's title is part of an ongoing prank war with Partisan Records label owner Tim Putnam, whose picture appears on the cover. It's also a nod to the album of the same name by the Replacements, whose influence is especially obvious on the track "Main Street."

CAPSULE

Deer Tick

Wednesday, April 3, 7 p.m.

Colorado College's Armstrong Theatre, 14 E. Cache la Poudre St.

Tickets: $20/public, $14/KRCC members, free/CC students with ID; krcc.org.

Between albums and tours, band members have kept busy with side projects. Singer-guitarist John McCauley teamed up with Dawes' Taylor Goldsmith and Delta Spirit's Matthew Vasquez as the slacker-folk Middle Brother, whose ramshackle debut album came out in 2011. Both he and Crowell — along with Steve Berlin and members of the Black Lips, Dead Confederate, and Six Finger Satellite — are in garage bar band Diamond Rugs. As always, it's just a matter of setting aside a little time and a lot of beer, enough to continue the band's beloved "wizard staff" tradition.

"It's something we were doing during the Diamond Rugs sessions," says Crowell. "When you finish a beer you have to tape a new beer on top of the last one. By the end of the day you have proof of what you've done by the length of your wizard staff. Man, by the end of the day we wouldn't have been able to drink from the top of those."

— scene@csindy.com

SoundAdvice

David Bowie
The Next Day
Columbia Records

File next to: Peter Gabriel, Scott Walker

Return to form or overhyped letdown? David Bowie's first album in a decade has met with both responses, but deserves neither. Despite conventional wisdom, *The Next Day* is not the long-overdue successor to his revered '70s "Berlin Trilogy." That already happened with 2002's *Heathen*, a triumphant reunion with producer Tony Visconti released at a point when all but the most loyal fans had lapsed into "how can we miss you if you won't go away" apathy. But Bowie's post-heart-attack absence has changed all that. With Visconti still onboard, *The Next Day* includes some fairly stunning tracks ("I'd Rather Be High," "Valentine's Day," "Where Are We Now?") and solid lyrics ("I'd rather be dead or out of my head / Than training these guns on those men in the sand"). But too much here feels musically unadventurous, delivered in an atypical monotone with no ambient or dissonant soundscapes to justify it. Bowie is clearly still capable of great albums, but this isn't one of them. *— **Bill Forman***

Anais Mitchell & Jefferson Hamer
Child Ballads
Wilderland Records

File next to: Dave Carter & Tracy Grammer, Sandy Denny

Anais Mitchell knows how to keep fans guessing. The Vermont singer-songwriter, who will be performing at this year's MeadowGrass Music Festival, followed up a straightforward folk album (*The Brightness*) with an operatic retelling of the Orpheus myth (*Hadestown*), which in turn led to last year's genre-hopping *Young Man in America*, a concept album about her father. When Mitchell brought her opera to Denver in 2011, she opened the show by playing a couple of Old English ballads with collaborator Jefferson Hamer, which is now the focus of *Child Ballads*. While the title may suggest a kids' production, it's actually a reference to 19th-century folk-music curator Francis Child. The seven songs here are long and tortuous murder ballads and tales of lost love (try "Sir Patrick Spens"), all but one clocking in at over six minutes. If you like the Joan Baez or Sandy Denny style of heart-wrenching folk tune, you'll want to pick up this eclectic but beautiful collection. *— **Loring Wirbel***

Crime & the City Solution
American Twilight
Mute Records

File next to: Nick Cave & the Bad Seeds, Ennio Morricone

Australian post-punk outfit Crime & the City Solution's last LP was released in 1990, but the band has roared back to life with an expanded lineup on *American Twilight*. Though the group is now based in Detroit, the music here is often fit for a hallucinogenic western film, buzzing with thunderous, twangy guitars (courtesy of longtime member Alexander Hacke and Colorado's own David Eugene Edwards) and a galloping rhythm section, all led by the ominous voice and obtusely poetic lyrics of frontman Simon Bonney. It's perhaps obvious for an album titled *American Twilight* to be described as apocalyptic, but there is a palpable sense of unease and grandeur that runs throughout. You can feel it in jagged rave-ups like the title track and "Riven Man," the mariachi trumpets on "My Love Takes Me There," and the silky violin and backing vocals of Bronwyn Adams on "Domina." *American Twilight* is a sweeping, glorious "second coming" from a frequently overlooked band. *— **Collin Estes***

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REVERB

BY BILL FORMAN

From the winged cassette that serves as its logo to the old-school influences embraced by its artists, **Blank Tape Records** has never been shy about its retro inclinations. So it's fitting that, for her solo debut, **Haunted Windchimes** co-founder **Desirae Garcia** opted to go with a seven-inch vinyl release.

Garcia celebrates her seven-inch vinyl debut.

The Pueblo-based singer-songwriter's *Ill Fitting* EP is a limited edition — only 300 have been pressed — and is available for pre-order at the label's website. Better still, you can be among the first to get your hands on a copy at this coming Friday's record-release show at the **Loft**, which will also feature sets by fellow Windchime **Chela Lujan** and Denver folksinger **Laura Goldhamer**.

While a lot of indie artists profess a lifelong love of vinyl, Garcia was a newer convert to the club. "I broke my dad's record player growing up, so everyday contact with vinyl wasn't really a part of my childhood," she recalls. "I didn't start really getting into it until more recently, but I love it."

The seven-inch single, for those who haven't been keeping track, will mark its 65th anniversary next year. The medium of choice throughout the 1950s and '60s, its market share went into freefall once the industry discovered the economic advantage of replacing pop singers with recording artists whose musical visions couldn't be contained by anything less than full-length albums. A brief resurgence during the DIY days of punk turned out to be the format's last hurrah.

'After the third and fourth song, I just said, well, I'm done.'

In fact, Garcia says the original plan for *Ill Fitting* was to record the songs to tape — "because that's less intimidating to me than the computer" — and then digitally master them for release as a full-length CD. But it eventually became clear that an all-analog approach was called for in order to convey the warmth and intimacy of the recordings. (While there are no plans to release the songs through iTunes or other digital services, a free digital download is also included with the record.)

"The project originally evolved from just wanting to fool around with a four-track cassette recorder," explains Garcia, noting that the songs and arrangements that grew out of that had a different feel than her Haunted Windchimes material. "It kind of turned into an EP instead of a full-length naturally. After the third and fourth song, I just said, well, I'm done."

Clocking in at just under six minutes per side, *Ill Fitting*'s four tracks are hushed indie-folk gems with minimalist arrangements that make artists like **Low** and **Nick Drake** sound overwrought by comparison. Electric guitar and bass parts are simple and elegant, unobtrusively complementing the clarity and strength of her vocals. Garcia plays all the instruments, including the delicate toy piano that graces the all-acoustic closing track.

"It was much more of a personal exploration of songs and singing for me," explains Garcia. "I chose to work on them when no one was around, and they kind of turned into emotional little monsters. They didn't seem to fit in with anything I've written previously, so I decided to keep them apart. But any of the tunes could easily be transformed into songs suitable for the 'Chimes, they would just need some wiggling and jostling to fit in."

The songs will get a full-band treatment during Friday's Loft show, where Garcia and her baritone ukulele will be backed by fellow Windchime **Inaiah Lujan** on guitar, **Grant Sabin** on bass and **Alex Koshak** on keyboards.

Then on Saturday, Koshak will be back behind the drum kit with his band the **Flumps** at **Modbo** — along with **We Are Not a Glum Lot** and **Kellie Palmblad**'s **Water Bear** — while Sabin picks up his slide guitar to share a **Triple Nickel** bill with Boulder's alt-country **Yawpers**.

Last but arguably not least, Reverb's more ghastly and hirsute readers will be pleased to know that they can be part of a good old-fashioned rock video. **Rikki Dee Hall** and his band the **VooDoo Hawks** are in need of zombies and werewolves for a music video they're shooting this Saturday for their swampy new song "Sigolene." You can e-mail them at contact@voodoohawks.com for the gory details.

Send news, photos and music to reverb@csindy.com; follow our updates at tinyurl.com/indyreverb.

PlayingAround

LIVE MUSIC: WEDNESDAY, APRIL 3, THROUGH TUESDAY, APRIL 9

Wednesday 04/03

Back East, *Mikey Louis (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Black Sheep, *The Devil Wears Prada, As I Lay Dying, For Today (metal),* 6 p.m., $25.
Club Q, *Open Mic Night (open mic),* 10 p.m.
Frankie's, *Open Mic (open mic),* 8:30 p.m.
Front Range Barbeque, *Chimney Choir (Americana),* 7 p.m.
Fujiyama, *Trusedell Trio feat. Julie Bradley (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Crystal and the Curious (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Meadow Muffins, *Brian Parton (Americana),* 7 p.m.
MoodSwings, *Acoustic Open Mic Night (open mic),* 8 p.m., $5, free for jammers.
Park East, *The Martini Shot Unplugged (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Rico's, *Blue Frog and Friends, feat. Ian Gott (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Rawbert & I (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Stargazers, *R&R Military & Veterans Monthly Music Jam (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Zodiac, *'80s Nite with DJ Monster Mike (dance),* 9 p.m.

Thursday 04/04

Ancient Mariner, *Stolen Idol Productions presents Open Mic (open mic),* 8 p.m.
Benny's, *Open Mic with the Jerry Roskin Band (open mic),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *The Devil Wears Prada, As I Lay Dying, For Today (metal),* 6 p.m., $25.
Blue Moose Tavern, *Open Mic with Chauncy Crandall (open mic),* 8 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Pub Sing-along with Brian Clancy (world),* 7:30 p.m.
Jives, *The Blues News (acoustic),* 8 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Full Circle Quartet (jazz),* 6:30 p.m.
Motif, *Mike Nelson Duo with Marc Neihof (blues),* 7:15 p.m., $10 minimum.
Park East, *Sarah Wood & Theo DeCenzo (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Rico's, *Susan Rissman and Tribe (jazz),* 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Atomic Drifters (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Spice Island Grill, *Reggae Nights (world),* 8 p.m.
Wyatt's, *Kooks & Kettles (acoustic),* 8:30 p.m.

Friday 04/05

Ancient Mariner, *Lost Junction (Americana),* 9 p.m.
Back East, *6035 (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Benny's, *40oz. Freedom Fighters (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *My Iron Lung, Vales, Tower, Heart/Soul (rock/pop),* 7:30 p.m., $5-$7.
Blue Moose Tavern, *Disco Night with DJ Brady (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Broadmoor Academy of Music, *Friday Jazz Jam Session (jazz),* 7 p.m.
Cleats, *Radio London (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Coffee Exchange, *Alicia & Friends*

VENUE DIRECTORY

Ancient Mariner, 962 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-5503
Back East Bar & Grill, 9475 Briar Village Point, 264-6161
Benny's Restaurant & Lounge, 517 W. Colorado Ave., 634-9309
Black Sheep, 2106 E. Platte Ave., 227-7625
The Blue Moose Tavern, 10530 Ute Pass Ave., Green Mountain Falls, 418-3384
Broadmoor Academy of Music, 1223 Lake Plaza Drive, Suite C, 576-3979
Carey-On Saloon, 6829 Space Village Ave., 591-0300
Cleats Sports Bar & Grill, 6624 Delmonico Drive, 548-8267
Club Q, 3430 N. Academy Blvd., 570-1429
The Coffee Exchange, 526 S. Tejon St., 635-0277
Crystola Roadhouse, 20918 U.S. Hwy. 24, Woodland Park, 687-7879
Cucuru Gallery Café, 2332 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9900
Frankie's Bar & Grill, 945 N. Powers Blvd., 574-4881
Frankie's Too!, 7376 McLaughlin Road, Falcon, 495-8707
Fratelli Ristorante Italiano, 124 N. Nevada Ave., 575-9571
Front Range Barbeque, 2330 W. Colorado Ave., 632-2596
Fujiyama, 22 S. Tejon St., Suite A, 630-1167
Jack Quinn Irish Alehouse & Pub, 21 S. Tejon St., 385-0766
Jives Coffee Lounge, 16 Colbrunn Court, 210-7650
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, 2817 N. Nevada Ave., 344-9593
Kasey's Bar & Grill, 1919 E. Boulder St., 635-8128
The Loft, 2506 W. Colorado Ave., 445-9278
Lounge in the Village, 3440 W. Carefree Circle, 550-9721
Margarita at PineCreek, 7350 Pine Creek Road, 598-8667
Meadow Muffins, 2432 W.

Got a live music event readers should know about? Send us the band/musician, where they're playing and when (day, date and time), how much it will cost and a contact phone number — by Wednesday

(acoustic), 6:30 p.m.
Cucuru, *Tom Lehrche (jazz),* 8 p.m.
Downtown Bar, *Rough Age (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Frankie's Too!, *Blue Dog Saints (rock/pop),* 8:30 p.m.
Fratelli, *Brian Parton (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Fujiyama, *Mistura Bela/Barbara Ernst (world),* 6:30 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Tribe (jazz),* 8 p.m.
Jives, *The Blues News (acoustic),* 8 p.m.
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, *Talk Radio (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Kasey's, *Friday Nights with DJ Panther (R&B),* 9 p.m.
The Loft, *Desirae Garcia Record Release Show feat. Laura Goldhammer & Chela Lujan (indie),* 7 p.m.
Margarita at PineCreek, *Swallowtail World Music (world),* 6:30 p.m.
MoodSwings, *The Flipsides (blues),* 8 p.m.
Motif, *Steve Draper Jazz Trio (jazz),* 7:45 p.m., $10 minimum.
The Perk Downtown, *Skean Dubn (world),* 8 p.m.
Polito's Beer Barrel, *Cari Dell Trio (blues),* 8 p.m.
Rawkus, *Damn Right!, F.L.O.T.E., Digital Beat Down (dance),* 8 p.m., $5-$10.
Rico's, *Adam Gang Jazz Trio (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Union Grey (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Stargazers, *Lobo Lenny & Fingers (rock/pop),* 8 p.m., $10.
Sunshine Studios, *21st Century Goliath, Five Hour Fire, Another Door (rock/pop),* 6:30 p.m., $10.
Townhouse, *Neighborhood Bully (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Union Station, *Lamb Bed, Misuji, He Kill 3 (metal),* 8 p.m., $5.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.
Wyatt's, *Sandy Wells (country),* 8:30 p.m.

Saturday 04/06

Back East, *Raygunomics (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Benny's, *Rocky Gene Wallace and Brickyard (blues),* 9 p.m.
Black Sheep, *Radical Something, SplYt, The KnightBeats (rock/pop),* 8 p.m., $10-$12.
Blue Moose Tavern, *One Eleven (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Carey-On Saloon, *Tumbling Dice (country),* 9 p.m.
Cleats, *Radio London (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Crystola Roadhouse, *Suga' Bear & The Show Time Band (R&B),* 8 p.m.
Cucuru, *Rico Southee (jazz),* 8 p.m.
Jack Quinn's, *Luke Ellington Blues Band (blues),* 9 p.m.
Johnny's Navajo Hogan, *Joey Not Home (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Lounge in the Village, *Cari Dell Trio (blues),* 8 p.m.
Modbo, *Waterbear, The Flumps, We Are Not a Glum Lot (rock/pop),* 9 p.m., $7 donation.
MoodSwings, *Muriel Shickman (acoustic),* 8 p.m., $5.
Motif, *Marcie Hureau and Gentle Rain (jazz),* 7:45 p.m., $10 minimum.
Oakley's, *D Day Invasion (blues),* 8 p.m.
Pikes Peak Brewing Co., *Nick Davey (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
Rico's, *Mango Fan Django (jazz),* 7:30 p.m.
The Sky Box Lounge, *The Reid Holmes Invitational "Live Music Jam" (open mic),* 8 p.m.
Sonterra, *John Stone (acoustic),* 7 p.m.
SouthSide Johnny's, *Union Grey (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Speedtrap, *Brian Parton (rock/pop),* 8 p.m.
Stadium Bar and Grill, *Dreamliner (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.
Stargazers, *The Elders (world),* 8 p.m., $15-$20.
Townhouse, *Latigo (country),* 9 p.m.
Triple Nickel, *The Yawpers, Grant Sabin (rock/pop),* 9 p.m., $5.
Union Station, *STEP, Habitual* (rock/pop), 8 p.m., $5.
V Bar, *DJ Gravity (dance),* 9 p.m.
Zodiac, *White Trash Prom with El Toro de la Muerte, Disguise the Spy, Rough Age, and Knight in Colors (rock/pop),* 9 p.m., $5.

Sunday 04/07

Jack Quinn's, *Traditional Irish Session (world),* 3 p.m.
The Loft, *Caravan of Thieves, with Jeoff Harris (folk),* 7 p.m., $11-$15.
Retired Enlisted Association, *Sunday Blues Jam with Tracy Quinn Band (blues),* 3 p.m.
Smiley's, *Blue Frog (blues),* 11 a.m.
Zodiac, *Matt Murphy, Rachael Michaels, Jeoff Harris (rock/pop),* 9 p.m.

Monday 04/08

Zodiac, *Open Mic hosted by Andrea Stone (open mic),* 7 p.m.

Tuesday 04/09

Benny's, *Sweet T's Rude Blues Jam (blues),* 7 p.m.
Townhouse, *Jam Night, with Tim Costello (acoustic),* 8 p.m.
Zodiac, *Goth Nite with DJ Raid (dance),* 9 p.m.

Spiritualized brings its seminal space rock to Denver's Bluebird Theatre April 4.

BigGigs

Cold War Kids, Gothic Theatre, Englewood, April 3 • **Deer Tick**, CC's Armstrong Hall, April 3 • **The Devil Wears Prada, As I Lay Dying**, Black Sheep, April 3-4 • **Iceage,** Marquis Theater, Denver, April 4 • **Spiritualized,** Bluebird Theatre, Denver, April 4 • **The Elders**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, April 6 • **Radical Something**, Black Sheep, April 6 • **Sigur Ros,** 1STBANK Center, Broomfield, April 6 • **Caravan of Thieves,** Loft, April 7 • **Bad Religion**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 10 • **The Doobie Brothers**, Pikes Peak Center, April 10 • **Moses Jones**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, April 10 • **The Parlotones**, Black Sheep, April 10 • **Chris Cagle**, Cowboys, April 11 • **Bullet For My Valentine**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 12 • **Jimmy Thackery & the Drivers**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, April 12 • **Big Bill Morganfield**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, April 13 • **Pauline Oliverso,** UCCS' Centennial Hall Auditorium, April 13 • **Peter Yarrow**, Daniels Hall at Swallow Hill, Denver, April 13 • **Fear Factory**, Black Sheep, April 14 • **Family of the Year**, Black Sheep, April 17 • **Filter**, Black Sheep, April 18 • **Colin Hay**, Trilakes Center for the Arts, Palmer Lake, April 20 • **The Motet, Ozomatli**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, April 20 • **Moreland & Arbuckle**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, April 27 • **Whiskey Fingers**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, May 3 • **Chris Duarte Group**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, May 4 • **John Prine**, Pikes Peak Center, May 4 • **Paramore**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, May 7 • **Stu Hamm**, Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, May 11 • **Fabolous, Pusha T**, Ogden Theatre, Denver, May 14 • **Imagine Dragons**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, May 16 • **Miranda Lambert, Dierks Bentley**, Fiddler's Green Amphitheatre, Englewood, May 18 • **Dropkick Murphys**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, May 29 • **Buddy Whittington, with the Atomic Fireballs**, Crystola Roadhouse, Woodland Park, May 31 • **Bassnectar**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, May 31-June 1 • **Fleetwood Mac**, Pepsi Center, Denver, June 1 • **Gina Sicilia**, Venue 515, Manitou Springs, June 1 • **Taylor Swift**, Pepsi Center, Denver, June 2 • **The xx**, Fillmore Auditorium, Denver, June 3 • **Sting**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, June 5 • **Darius Rucker, with Rodney Atkins**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, June 6 • **Umphrey's McGee, Dr. Dog**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, June 7 • **Celtic Woman**, Red Rocks Amphitheatre, Morrison, June 9 • **Logic, with Skizzy Mars**, Summit Music Hall, Denver, June 11 • **Pitbull/Ke$ha**, Fiddler's Green Amphitheatre, Englewood, June 11

Colorado Ave., 633-0583
Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240
MoodSwings Acoustic Lounge, 696 N. Circle Drive, 201-2592
Motif, 2432 W. Cucharras St., 635-5635
Oakley's Café & Bistro at Sundance Mountain Lodge, 1865 Woodmoor Drive, Monument, 481-6000
Park East Restaurant, 720 Goodnight Ave., Pueblo, 719/565-6655
The Perk Downtown, 14 S. Tejon St., 635-1600
Pikes Peak Brewing Co., 1756 Lake Woodmoor Drive, 208-4098
Polito's Beer Barrel, 2113 E. Evans Ave., Pueblo, 719/564-9915
Rawkus, 3506 N. Academy Blvd., 596-0000
Retired Enlisted Association, 834 Emory Circle, 596-0927
Rico's Café and Wine Bar, 322½ N. Tejon St., 578-5549
The Sky Box Lounge, 2102 E. Bijou St. 634-4815
Smiley's Bakery and Café, 323 N. Tejon St., 328-9447
Sonterra Innovative Southwest Grill, 28B S. Tejon St., 471-9222
SouthSide Johnny's, 528 S. Tejon St., 444-8487
Speedtrap, 84 State Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 488-2007
Spice Island Grill, 10 N. Sierra Madre St., 473-8280
Stadium Bar and Grill, 6120 Barnes Road, 302-0969
Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200
Sunshine Studios, 3970 Clearview Frontage Road, 392-8921
Townhouse Lounge, 907 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1085
Triple Nickel Tavern, 26 S. Wahsatch Ave., 477-9555
Union Station, 2419 N. Union Blvd., 227-7168
V Bar, 19 E. Kiowa St., 635-9599
Wyatt's Pub & Grill, 806 Village Center Drive, 598-4100
Zodiac, 230 Pueblo Ave., 632-5059

at noon for the following week's paper. If we don't receive confirmation of ongoing events on a monthly basis, they won't run. Send to: livemusic@csindy.com.

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SCALE THE SUMMIT - MAY 31 (ON SALE NOW)
AUTHORITY ZERO, BALLYHOO! - JUN 18 (ON SALE FRI)
Wed, Apr. 3rd - 6:00pm
PRESENTED BY 94.3 KILO AND INDEPENDENT RECORDS
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA, AS I LAY DYING
FOR TODAY, THE CHARIOT
Thu, Apr. 4th - 6:00pm
PRESENTED BY 94.3 KILO AND INDEPENDENT RECORDS
AS I LAY DYING
SOLD OUT!
THE DEVIL WEARS PRADA
FOR TODAY, THE CHARIOT
Fri, Apr. 5th - 7:30pm
MY IRON LUNG
VALES, TOWER, HEART/SOUL
Sat, Apr. 6th - 8:00pm
LIMITED AMOUNT OF VIP MEET & GREET TICKETS AVAILABLE!
RADICAL SOMETHING
SPIYT, THE KNIGHTBEATS
Wed, Apr. 10th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP
THE PARLOTONES
CLAYMORE DISCO, DINNER & THE SUIT
Thu, Apr. 11th - 7:00pm
THE HOP HOP SHOW 4
17 ENTS
OVADOZE, B.B.S., YOSHI THE GREAT, FALLIBLE, KARLZMATIK, TOON, AMONEY, OPERATOR-9
Fri, Apr. 12th - 7:30pm
DUCKLING FANTASY
GRINDSCAPE, MIDGARD, ENDUALITY
Sun, Apr. 14th - 7:00pm
FEAR FACTORY
MALAKAI, DESPISE THE SUN, ANOTHER SHADE OF HATE
Wed, Apr. 17th - 7:00pm
PRESENTED BY 103.9 RXP AND INDEPENDENT RECORDS
FAMILY OF THE YEAR, THE MOGWLI'S
FLOATY RAFT
Thu, Apr. 18th - 7:30pm
FILTER
RED LINE CHEMISTRY, GIRL ON FIRE
Fri, Apr. 19th - 7:30pm
KALEB MIZE MEMORIAL BENEFIT
SLEEPSWITHBEARS
VITAL MALICE, NUK-L-HED, OMNYN
UPCOMING EVENTS
APR 20 - VOODOO GLOW SKULLS
APR 22 - BROADWAY CALLS
APR 27 - KING
APR 28 - FACE TO FACE
APR 30 - CHUNK, NO CAPTAIN CHUNK!
MAY 3 - IAMDYNAMITE
MAY 4 - THE FLOBOTS
MAY 6 - MIDDLE CLASS RUT
MAY 10 - BUILT TO SPILL
MAY 13 - MUSHROOMHEAD
MAY 18 - THREE LEGGED FOX
MAY 21 - CAPITAL CITIES
MAY 24 - REHAB
MAY 25 - LOGIC
MAY 26 - TRAPT
MAY 27 - ESCAPE THE FATE
MAY 31 - SCALE THE SUMMIT
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Listings

PICK Indicates our recommendations for this week.

YOUR GUIDE TO EVENTS IN THE PIKES PEAK REGION

PICK ***The Comic Adventures of Old Mother Hubbard and Her Dog,*** two days of performances by Paul Mesner, who crafts the puppets, and tells the story of Old Mother and her funny dog. Milk and cookies to follow the show. April 6-7. $10.50. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

ArtEvents

Arts in Business and Education Luncheon, an event to honor locals who have done well to promote and preserve the arts in the community, with emcee Jan Martin of City Council, performances by local artists and musicians and more. Reservations required. Wed., April 10, 11:30 a.m. $35. Antlers Hilton, 4 S. Cascade Ave., 238-5065, antlers.com.

Clay Art Classes, a variety of classes on topics like paper-clay, raku, handbuilding and wheel throwing. Through May 1. Cup and Bowl Gallery, 116 Midway Ave., Pueblo, 719/404-3469, cupandbowl.org.

A DINOSAUR ATE MY HOMEWORK, an artistic commentary on the traditional classroom environment from Colorado College senior Lacey Carter. Held at 117 E. Cache la Poudre St. Through April 5.

First Friday Art Walk — Pueblo, monthly art celebrations encompassing multiple galleries, a handful of coffee shops, the Sangre de Cristo Arts Center and other businesses. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Downtown Pueblo, pueblopag.org.

First Friday ArtWalk, monthly celebrations of the scene with new artwork, appetizers and drinks, artist demonstrations, the occasional live music and more. First Friday of every month, 5-8 p.m. Old Colorado City, 520-9494, bestartontheavenue.com.

Hopeful Modern Art, an evening of art, music, milk and cookies for First Friday Downtown. Featuring the work of David Thomason, owner of Pikes Peak Chocolate, and the musical stylings of Elle Reese. Fri., April 5, 5-8 p.m. Pikes Peak Chocolate Company, 125½ N. Tejon St., 634-2626, facebook.com.

Life Drawing Sessions, with a live model. RSVP to Tina at 685-1282. Thursdays, 6-8 p.m. $6-$10 (fees vary). Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Red on Red, a solo show of paintings done by Colorado abstract artist John Sherman whose "medium is red." Fri., April 5, 5-8 p.m. Hunter-Wolff Gallery, 2510 W. Colorado Ave., 520-9494, hunterwolffgallery.com.

ArtExhibits

Arati Artists Gallery, 2425 W. Colorado Ave., 636-1901, aratiartists.com. *Nature's Beauty*, an exhibition of turned woods and watercolor paintings from Frank DiNino and Dick Williams, respectively. Opening reception, Fri., April 5, 5 p.m.

Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org. *Families*, a multidisciplinary project featuring two exhibits, *A Family Affair: Selections from the Progressive Art Collection*, a multimedia show featuring numerous angles on the idea of family from contemporary and emerging artists, and *Mother: Photography by Carol S. Dass*, a solo show by this local photographer seeing her mother through new eyes. Through May 19.

Cup and Bowl Gallery, 116 Midway Ave., Pueblo, 719/404-3469, cupandbowl.org. *Yard Art*, an exhibition of outdoor ceramics, like planters, totems, chimes and more. April 5-30. Opening reception, Fri., April 5, 5 p.m.

Downtown Studio Gallery at Pikes Peak Community College, 100 W. Pikes Peak Ave., 502-4040, ppcc.edu/departments/art/pppcc-art-gallery. *AIR LIGHT BREATH*, an exhibit by Corey Drieth, Donny Dixon, DeLane Bredvik and Tanya Gelster concerning "physical manifestations of ethereal phenomena." Through April 12. Panel discussion discussing the gamut of art to science and more, Thurs., April 4, 2:30 p.m.

Gallery 113, 113 N. Tejon St., gallery-113.com. *New Artists*, an exhibition of watercolors, paintings and photographs from Kathy Murray, Shelley Olivier and Eric Murphy, respectively. April 5-30. Opening reception Fri., April 5, 5 p.m. Susie Jernigan, an exhibition of works by this local painter as well as wall art, jewelry, pottery, cards, and wood carving from the Gallery 113 co-op artists. Through April 10.

GOCA 121, 121 S. Tejon St., #100, 255-3504, galleryuccs.org. *Ceramica: Contemporary Clay*, a group exhibit featuring artwork done in clay from locals like Mark Wong to Michigan artist

Elaine Ng. Through April 12. Art & Wine: *Ceramica: Contemporary Clay*, Wed., April 3, 6:30 p.m. Register online ($25-$30).

I.D.E.A. Space at Colorado College, Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6066, theideaspace.com. *Voices from Japan: Perspectives on Disaster and Hope*, a variety of events and exhibitions at locations across the college curated by Colorado College professor Joan Ericson, who was in Japan when the earthquake hit in 2011. In addition, poetry and artwork responding to the Waldo Canyon Fire will also be displayed. Through April 6. "Environmental Ethics: A Panel Discussion," Thurs., April 4, 4 p.m. Free.

Marika's Coffeehouse, 739 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-4438, marikascoffeehouse.com. *Hyperspective*, an exhibition of paintings "alive with intricacies, imagination and inspiration" from Danny Gillies.

Modbo, 17C E. Bijou St., 633-4240, themodbo.wordpress.com. *Work by Reba Lee Savageau and Tom Vail*, a collection of paintings and photo collage works by Savageau and Vail, respectively. April 5-26. Opening reception with music by George Parrish, Tom Vail and friends, Fri., April 5, 5:30 p.m. to midnight

Soirée, 1003 S. Tejon St., 633-8313, coloradospringsvenue.com. *Alexis Elza*, a series of paintings from Elza's "Project Series." April 6 to June 30. Opening reception, Sat., April 6, 5-8 p.m.

PICK **Business of Art Center,** 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org. *Art Aloud*, as part of National Poetry Month, a selection of artistic and literary collaborations, both at the BAC and around town. Opening reception, Fri., April 5, 6-8:30 p.m.

S.P.Q.R., 17 B E. Bijou St., 633-4240. *Historical Curiosity: Works by Trevor Thomas*, a solo show by Thomas, a classical artist who worked with local mural artist Eric Bransby. April 5-26. Opening reception with music by George Parrish, Tom Vail and friends, Fri., April 5, 5:30 p.m. to midnight.

Auditions&Entries

ArtoCade seeks art cars for a new weekend event happening in Trinidad in September. Details available online, along with stipend information (some are eligible) and an application. artcarfun@hotmail.com, historictrinidad.com/artocade.html.

Business of Art Center seeks entries for its juried photography exhibition *Colorado in Focus*. Work must be delivered ready to hang. Deadline for entries is April 14. $10 for first piece, $5 for each additional. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Colorado Association for Recycling seeks entries for its seventh annual Recycling Poster Contest, open to students grades K-12. Prizes include gift cards and workshops from Project Learning Tree. Visit the website for more information and entry guidelines. Deadline: April 26. 583-4309, aldred@co.pueblo.co.us, cafr.org/events/posterContest.php.

Commonwheel Artists Co-op seeks a 3D artist (meaning "any art that sits on a shelf" and of any media). Applications available online and in the shop. Artists should include photos of five to 10 work examples. Deadline: April 8, 6 p.m. Commonwheel Artists Co-op, 102 Cañon Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1008, commonwheel.com.

Pueblo Performing Arts Guild seeks visual artists and performers of all types to come audition during the listed time period. Sat., April 20, noon to 4 p.m. Historic Arkansas Riverwalk of Pueblo, Main Street and Union Avenue, Pueblo, 719/242-6652, pueblopag.org.

Rampart Rock'N Jazz seeks sopranos, tenors and altos to join a four-to-eight-part R&B harmony group. 313-6131, rampartrocknjazz.com.

Westside Community Center seeks submissions for the annual show *Finding Our Voices*. Deadline for poetry is March 24; deadline for visual art is April 10. Westside Community Center, 1628 W. Bijou St., 460-7836, findingourvoicescs.org.

Wrong Way Press seeks illustrated stories and fables à la Kafka, Thurber or the Brothers Grimm for publication. Submission deadline: May 1; see website for guidelines. 832/816-6815, wrongwaypress.com.

Clubs&Organizations

Ella Mae Bransom Association Meetings, gatherings to work for the improvement of the quality of health and life of local families and individuals affected by sickle cell and related diseases. First Saturday of every month, 10:30 a.m. Southeast YMCA, 2190 Jet Wing Drive, 596-7308, ppymca.org/southeast-family-center.

Middle East Peace Project, a group for people interested in promoting "a just resolution to the Israel-Palestine conflict." First Thursday of every month, 5 p.m. Free. Pikes Peak Justice and Peace Commission, 332 W. Bijou St., #102, 715/803-3488, middleeastpeaceproject.net.

Open Coffee Club, a chance to network with like-minded local entrepreneurs. First Thursday of every month. The Perk Downtown, 14 S. Tejon St., 924-5479, meetup.com/opencoffeeclub.

Photography Classes and Group, offering photography and Photoshop classes at various locations around town. Visit 3peaksphoto.com/classes.html for a schedule. A photography group is also open to new members of all skill levels. Visit meetup.com/The-Colorado-Photography-Learning-Group for more information. 260-6637.

Pikes Peak Jugglers, an informal group of jugglers ranging in skill from beginners to pros. Non-members are welcome. Sundays, 3-5 p.m. Free. Downtown YMCA, 207 N. Nevada Ave., 477-9978, ppymca.org.

Comedy&Improv

The RiP, family-friendly improv. April 5-6, 8 p.m. $12. Millibo Art Theatre, 1367 Pecan St., 465-6321, themat.org.

Concerts

#PPYRFAVES, a performance from the Pinnacle Ringers of the Pikes Peak Youth Ringers. Sun., April 7, 3 p.m. Free. Broadmoor Community Church, 315 Lake Ave., 33-2668, pikespeakyouthringers.com.

Conservatory Soirée, featuring live jazz and blues from Conservatory faculty and alumni, plus tapas and happy hour drink specials. Fridays, 5:30-8:30 p.m.; through April 27. Red Martini, 25 N. Tejon St., 634-3522, csnightclubs.com.

PICK ***An Evening of Robert Schumann,*** a home concert with drinks and dinner featuring Maestro Lawrence Leighton Smith on the piano, with Abe Minzer, Connie Heidenreich and others performing the works of Schumann. RSVP to attend and for location information. Sat., April 6, 6-9 p.m. $30, includes dinner and drinks ($10 for students). 229-2239, classicallyalive.com.

Intersection Trio, a classical concert featuring selections by Debussy, Gershwin, Ikenouchi and others. Wed., April 3, 7:30 p.m. $25, $5 for stu-

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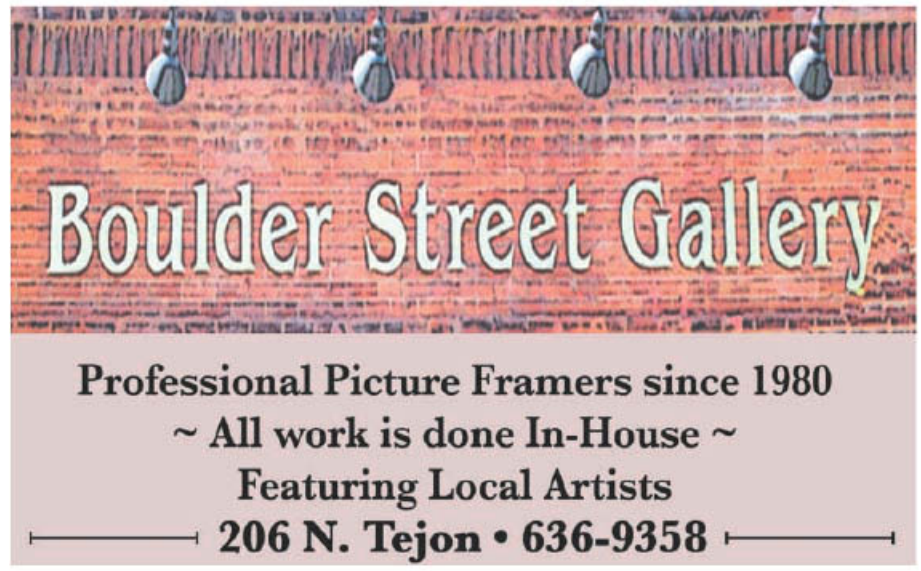
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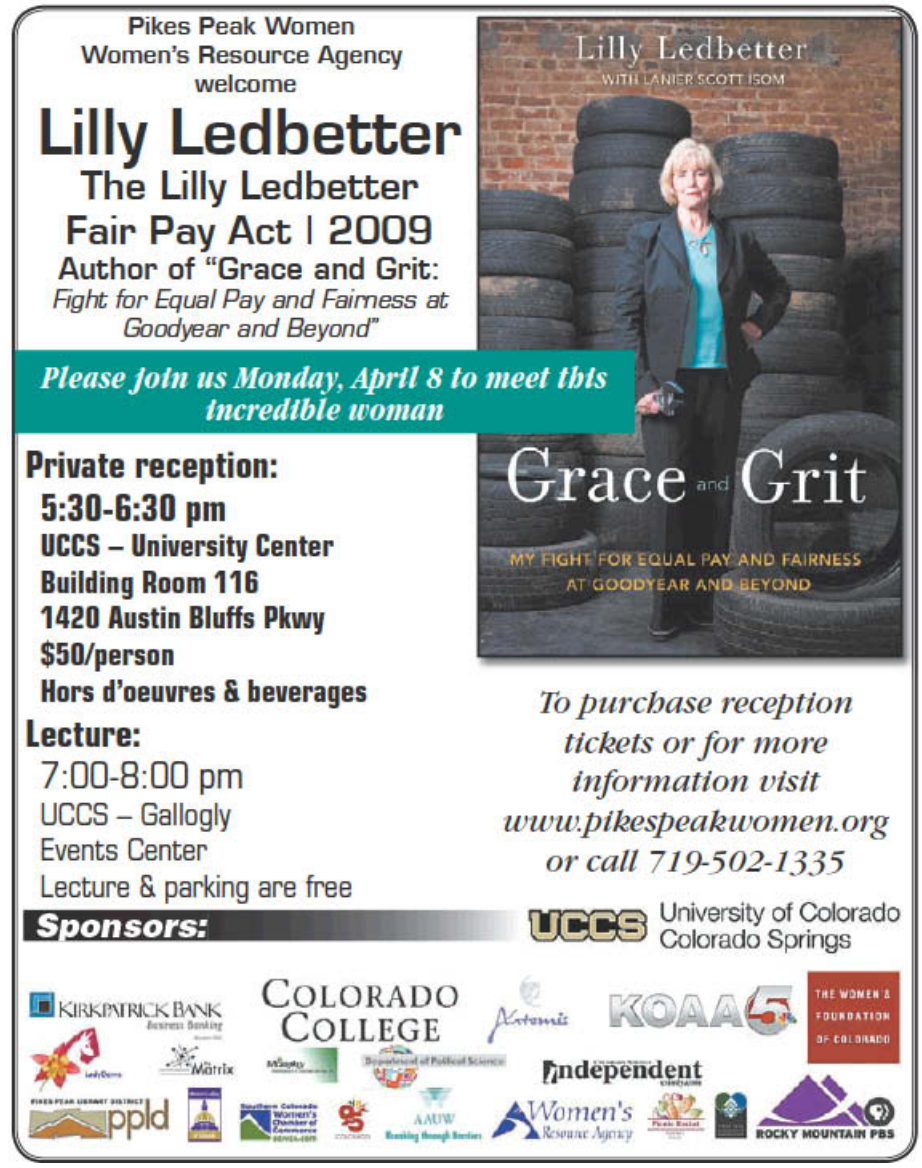

PICK **Cottonwood Center for the Arts,** 427 E. Colorado Ave., 520-1899, cottonwoodcenterforthearts.com. *The Life Abstract*, a juried show featuring abstract, nonrepresentational artwork judged by Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center museum director Blake Milteer and local artist/Colorado College instructor Scott Johnson. Power Boothe, a CC alum and local artist who has shown in New York City, will also display. Through May 17.

dents. CC's Packard Hall, 5 W. Cache la Poudre St., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu.

The Jazz Soirée, monthly jazz sessions with live music by FluteDaddy and a complimentary "Curious Pour" of wine or beer from Soirée's selection. First Friday of every month, 8 p.m. $15. Soirée, 1003 S. Tejon St., 633-8313, thejazzsoiree.com.

Shades of Love, an exploration of love from the Woodland Park Community Singers. Sun., April 7, 3 p.m. Free. Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 748-8523.

Southern Colorado In Harmony Festival, a performance from the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale and almost 400 elementary-school singers, performing as individual choirs and then as a whole. Wed., April 3, 7 p.m. $8. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, kidssing.org.

The Springs Camerata, a performance by this local string group, which will play selections from Vivaldi, Handel and others. Sun., April 7, 3 p.m. Free. First Christian Church, 16 E. Platte Ave., 633-8888, firstchristiancos.org.

Sundays with Larry, an afternoon of drinks, treats and musical appreciation as Maestro Lawrence Leighton Smith leads the audience in an exploration of Beethoven's *Symphony No. 3*, "The Eroica." RSVP recommended. Sun., April 7, 3-4:30 p.m. $10-25. Colorado Springs Conservatory, 415 S. Sahwatch St., 577-4556, csconservatory.org.

X:Vox — Generations Joined in Song, a performance of "Lux Aeterna" by a 140-voice choir made up of members from Pikes Peak Community College, the Colorado Springs Choral Society, the Colorado Springs Children's Chorale and more. Sat., April 6, 7 p.m. $5-$10. First Christian Church, 16 E. Platte Ave., 502-3459, firstchristiancos.org.

DanceParties&Classes

Andante Blues Dance, a chance to dance this "distinctly American dance." A beginners lesson provided. No partner required. Fridays, 9 p.m. $4-$6 donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809, kkschmidt@lettucebrain.com, movementartscs.com.

Colorado Ballroom, basic instruction and dance time to the waltz, rumba, polka and more. Come at 7 p.m. for a beginners class. No partner or experience required. First and third Saturday of every month, 7:30-9:30 p.m. $3-$5. The Carriage Stop, 2700 W. Robinson St., 598-8624, roncounts.com.

Live Dance Bands, live music to rhumba, waltz, polka or cha-cha to, with free dance classes on the first, third and fifth Thursdays of the month. Saturdays, 7:30 p.m. $7-$9. International Dance Club, 2422 Busch Ave., 633-0195, internationaldanceclub.org.

Swing in the Springs, beginner and intermediate swing dance classes covering a variety of styles, followed by a free East Coast Swing class and a DJed dance. Casual dress, but no street shoes. Sundays, 7:30-10 p.m. $6. VFW Hall, 430 E. Pikes Peak Ave., 210-4697, swinginthesprings.com.

DancePerformances

Smuin, a contemporary dance performance by Michael Smuin in tribute to Frank Sinatra. Fri., April 5, 7:30 p.m. $27-$30. Sangre de Cristo Arts Center, 210 N. Santa Fe Ave., Pueblo, 719/295-7200, sdc-arts.org.

Success in the Springs III, a show hosted by Colorado Springs Dance Theatre displaying dancers from around the country who have grown up in Colorado Springs and have gone on to dance for companies in New York, Washington, D.C., and other locales. Sat., April 6, 7:30 p.m. $20-$30. CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., csdance.org.

Film

Girl Rising, the story of nine girls around the world who face extraordinary obstacles in their efforts to get an education. Narrated by an A-list cast including Meryl Streep, Salma Hayek and Alicia Keys. Wed., April 3, 7:30 p.m. Carmike Stadium 10, 1550 Pulsar Drive, 573-0256, gathr.us/screening/1407.

Haulin' Ass, a film about pack burro racing, Colorado's official state sport. Sponsored by the American Trail Running Association. Thurs., April 4, 7-10 p.m. $10-15. Stargazers Theatre and Event Center, 10 S. Parkside Drive, 476-2200, imathlete.com/events/haulinass.

The Island President, two screenings of this documentary about President Mohamed Nasheed of the Maldives, an island chain facing rising waters from global warming, which experts say could submerge the islands in a mere 20 years. Thurs., April 4, 6 and 8 p.m. Free. Tim Gill Center for Public Media, 315 E. Costilla St., ifsoc.org.

Monsoon Wedding, a screening of this 2001 film following one family traveling from around the globe to attend a last-minute wedding. Following the screening, UCCS film chair Dr. Robert Von Dassanowsky will lead a discussion of families in cinema. Wed., April 3, 7 p.m. $5-$7. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org.

NT Live: *People,* two screenings of the National Theatre of London's production of *People*, a new play by award-winning playwright Alan Bennett. Hosted by TheatreWorks. April 6-7. $13-$15. UCCS' Centennial Hall, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., theatreworkscs.org.

Food&Drink

The Curious Palate, monthly tasting sessions with dynamic topics, including: whiskey, sake, rum, Gentleman Cocktails and more. RSVP to attend. Second Tuesday of every month, 5:30 p.m. $25. Soirée Events & Celebrations, 1003 A&B S. Tejon St., 351-7191, coloradospringsvenue.com.

Dinner with Our Chef in the Kitchen, a five-course dinner with wine prepared by Chef Larissa Warner. Reservations required. Thursdays, 7 p.m. $35 per person. Garden of the Gods Gourmet, 2528 W. Cucharras St., 471-2799, godsgourmet.net.

FAC Wine Dinner, a five-course dinner themed around the exhibit *A Family Affair*, featuring artist Carol S. Dass and assistant curator Joy Armstrong. Fri., April 5, 6:30 p.m. $60-$65. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., 634-5581, csfineartscenter.org.

International Food Bazaar, a selection of treats from around the world, including Indian, Thai and European specialties. Proceeds go to y360 Hopi construction projects. Sun., April 7, 12-1:30 p.m. $5-10. Fellowship Bible Church, 5580 N. Nevada Ave., 380-0505, fbccs.org.

"Vini e Crostini," a tasting of six "unique and tasty" Cabernets, paired with food. Sat., April 6, 5:30 p.m. $40. moZaic, 443 Hwy. 105, Palmer Lake, 481-1800, innatpalmerdivide.com.

GetInvolved

Champions of Leadership, an evening celebrating the presentation of four community leadership awards with food, drink and auctions to benefit Leadership Pikes Peak. RSVP by March 27. Sat., April 6, 6 p.m. $75-85. Olympic Training Center, 1 Olympic Plaza, 632-2618, leadershippikespeak.org.

Magic of Two, a celebration of giving back with Peak Education, honoring its scholars who have fulfilled their dream of earning college degrees. The evening's entertainment includes gourmet food, a live auction and a wine pool. Sat., April 6, 6-9 p.m. $100. The Mining Exchange, A Wyndham Grand Hotel, 8 S. Nevada Ave., 389-1249, peakedu.org.

Thomas MacLaren's Silent Auction, a silent auction to benefit the Thomas MacLaren Charter School, with several items from local vendors and artists as well as a drawing attributed to Pablo Picasso and a Japanese ginger jar from the Meiji period. RSVP requested. Fri., April 5, 7:30 p.m. The Warehouse Restaurant and Gallery, 25 W. Ci-

marron St., 313-4488, hcaneff@maclarenschool.org, thewarehouserestaurant.com.

Health&Healing

50 Moving Forward Kick Off Event, the inaugural event for this health and well-being initiative for adults 50-plus, co-sponsored by the YMCA and Pfizer Inc. Thurs., April 4, 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. Garden Ranch YMCA, 2380 Montebello Drive, 593-9622, ymca.net/50movingforward.

Manitou Yoga, Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, 8 a.m. $5. Business of Art Center, 513 Manitou Ave., Manitou Springs, 685-1861, thebac.org.

Medicine Wheel and 12 Steps for Youth, a three- to four-month course for youth who are at-risk for substance abuse. $15. Lotus Center for Self-Discovery, 2860 S. Circle Drive, #120, 229-8280, lotuscenterco.org.

Yoga for Beginners, a donation-based class for beginners. Tuesdays, 5:30 p.m. Sunrise Yoga Studio, 313 N. Tejon St., #1, 216-8367, vibranthealthclinic.com.

Yoga for Special Needs, Tuesdays, noon to 1:30 p.m. Yoga Journeys Studio, 709 N. Nevada Ave., #201, 375-1922.

Yoga for Women in Recovery, a donation-based vinyasa flow class open to all women, with those in 12-step programs especially encouraged to attend. Thursdays, 5:30-6:30 p.m.; through Dec. 26. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 510-5000, flowinghopeyoga.org.

Kids&Family

The Big Cool Science Festival, a day of family-friendly science-demonstrations, indoor and outdoor activities, interactive programs, tours of KRCC and more. Sat., April 6, 11 a.m. to 3 p.m. Free. CC's Barnes Science Building, 1040 N. Nevada Ave., coolscience.org.

Box City For Kids, an event that allows kids K-5 to experience architectural design and construction firsthand as they construct a cardboard city. E-mail RSVP by April 4. Sat., April 6, 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. Eagleview Middle School, 1325 Vindicator Drive, 303/446-2266, robert@aiacolorado.org, coloradoarchitecturemonth.org.

Kids Night Out, a party for kids 6 to 10, with a hot dog cookout, a hike, crafts, a puppet show and more. Reservations required. Fri., April 5, 5-9 p.m. $15-$17. Bear Creek Nature Center, 245 Bear Creek Road, 520-6387, elpasocountyparks.com.

Meet the Orchestra Children's Concert, a special concert by the Chamber Orchestra of the Springs for kids to get an up-close look at how instruments work and musicians play together. With interactive activities and a special instrument "petting zoo." Sat., April 6, 2:30 p.m. Free. Imagination Celebration, 750 Citadel Drive East, Citadel Mall, 633-3649, imaginationcelebration.org.

A Positive Note, an eight-week music-making experience for individuals with disabilities, ages 12 through young adult. Early registration recommended. Saturdays, 10 a.m. to noon; through May 26. Colorado Springs Conservatory, 415 S. Sahwatch St., 577-4556, csconservatory.org.

Preschool Nature Program, a hands-on learning opportunity for kids age 3-5, including storytime and a take-home craft. This month's topics are rattlesnakes and red foxes. Children must be accompanied by an adult and reservations are required. Fridays, 10 a.m.; through April 27. Garden of the Gods Visitor & Nature Center, 1805 N. 30th St., 219-0108, gardenofgods.com.

"Rowdy Raccoons," a chance for kids age 3 to 6, and an adult, to learn more about the outdoors with a craft, hike and more. Reservations required. Thurs., April 4, 9 a.m. $4. Fountain Creek Nature Center, 320 Peppergrass Lane, Fountain, 520-6745, elpasocountyparks.com.

Lectures&Learning

"The Danish-American Wonder: Henry Clausen," an illustrated presentation with dinner about Clausen, billed as a "professional wrestler, artist's model, hobo, silent film movie extra, book dealer," by his son of Clausen Books. RSVP by April 5 for the April 8, 6 p.m. presentation. $16. Colorado Springs Masonic Hall, 1150 Panorama Drive, 473-0330.

Early Colorado Environmental Movement and the 1976 Winter Olympics Controversy, a lecture from former Colorado Gov. Richard Lamm, this year's recipient of the Colorado College Champion of the Rockies Award. Tues., April 9, 7:30 p.m. CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., 389-6038, coloradocollege.edu.

"Firewise Landscaping," two classes from the Colorado State University Extension Office on fire mitigation measures you can take in your gardens to protect your home. One class will be held Tues., April 9 from 2-4 p.m. at the CSU Extension Office, 305 S. Union Blvd. and repeated Thurs., April 11 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. at the El Paso County Citizen's Service Center, 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Road. $10. 520-7688, elpasoco.colostate.edu/hort/hort.shtml.

"First Principles: Five Keys for Restoring America's Prosperity," a presentation by John B. Taylor, a Stanford professor, author and former senior economist on the President's Council of Economic Advisors from 1976-1977. Thurs., April 4, 7:30 p.m. Free. CC's Gates Common Room, 1025 N. Cascade Ave, coloradocollege.edu.

"Gardening with the Moon," a class on the moon "and its power in your garden." RSVP by April 9 for the April 13, 3 p.m. event. $7. Hillside Gardens, 1006 S. Institute St., 520-9463, hillsidegardens.net.

PICK **The Bridge Gallery,** 218 W. Colorado Ave., thebridgeartgallery.com. *Tandem*, a collaborative exhibit in which Bridge Gallery members paired up to create unified works of art. Showing in the Commons Gallery, *Ag, Pt, Pd, Au*, works by Bill Starr. April 5-28. Opening reception, Fri., April 5, 5-8 p.m.

"Heritage Lecture: Converting Pollutants to Products from Coal-Fired Power Plants," learn the particulars of the NeuStream-S scrubber proposed for the Martin Drake Power Plant by Neumann Systems Group, Inc., which says that its product will help remove toxic metals and chemicals from the air that can later be used for fertilizer or building materials. RSVP by April 8 for the April 11, 6 p.m. event. Free. Western Museum of Mining and Industry, 225 Northgate Blvd., 488-0880, 800/752-6558, wmmi.org.

PICK **Lilly Ledbetter,** a lecture, Q & A, and book signing by Ledbetter, author of *Grace and Grit* and proponent of the Fair Pay Act. Parking at UCCS will be free. Mon., April 8, 7 p.m. Free. UCCS' Gallogly Event Center, 1420 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 502-1335, pikespeakwomen.org.

Living History: Golda Meir, a lecture on the life and times of Israel's first female Prime Minister, presented in character by Helen Trencher. Pre-registration required. Fri., April 5, 1:30-3 p.m. $25. Country Club Corners Event Center, 182 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., 633-4991, visitpillar.org.

"Perennials", a class from the Colorado State University Extension Office on establishing or maintaining perennial beds. Thurs., April 4 from 6:30-8:30 p.m. El Paso County Citizen's Service Center, 1675 W. Garden of the Gods Road. $10. 520-7688, elpasoco.colostate.edu/hort/hort.shtml.

Pikes Peak Workforce Center classes, offering classes on topics such as: résumé building, applying for federal jobs, networking, career building and more. Go online for a full schedule and to register. Pikes Peak Workforce Center, Citizens Service Center, 1675 Garden of the Gods Road, #1107, 667-3700, ppwfc.org.

PICK **"Religion and Religiosity: A Jaundiced Neurobiological Perspective,"** a lecture from MacArthur "Genius" Fellow and Stanford biology professor Robert Sapolsky. Wed., April 3, 7-8:30 p.m. CC's Shove Memorial Chapel, 1010 N. Nevada Ave., 389-6607, coloradocollege.edu/events/2013-04-03-religion-and-religiosity-a-jaundiced-neurobiological-perspective.

Senior Resource Development Agency Classes, registering now for classes and sessions including line dancing, computer skills, painting, coupon cutting and more. See the online calendar for current events. Senior Resource Development Agency, 230 N. Union Ave., Pueblo, 719/545-8900, srda.org.

"Soil Is Alive ... or at Least It Should Be," a discussion of how to create a healthy soil structure to foster biodiversity in the garden, touching on compost tea and vermiculture. Event is free; RSVP requested. Sat., April 6, 10-11:15 a.m. Phelan Gardens, 4955 Austin Bluffs Pkwy., 574-8058, phelangardens.com.

Spotlight on Inspiring Women, a discussion of what drives a person's passion to succeed, with special guest Beth Roalstad. Tues., April 9, 6:30-8 p.m. Center for Powerful Living, 635 Southpointe Court, #220, 448-9000, info@centerforpowerfulliving.com, centerforpowerfulliving.com.

PICK **State of the Rockies Conference,** a two-day conference focused on "issues of citizen science, water-friendly futures and winter recreation," with keynote speaker former Colorado governor Richard Lamm, who will discuss the 1976 Winter Olympics controversy and the roots of environmentalism in the state. Go online for full agenda. April 8-9. Free. CC's Cornerstone Arts Center, 825 N. Cascade Ave., coloradocollege.edu/stateoftherockies.

LiteraryEvents

Cheyenne Mountain Poetry Group, a group for those interested in, or currently writing, poetry. First and third Friday of every month. Colorado Springs Senior Center, 1514 N. Hancock Ave., 337-5130.

Covered Treasures Bookstore Book Signing, an evening with local self-help author Meredith Bromfield and time-travel novelist Diane Sawatzki. Thurs., April 4, 6:30-8 p.m. Covered Treasures Bookstore, 105 Second St., Monument, 481-2665. Covered Treasures will also host a presentation by Steffan Tubbs of 850KOA Radio Denver on his new biography of Joseph LaNier, the first black Navy Seal. Signing to follow at the book store. Sat., April 6, 10-11:30 a.m. Monument Fire Department Administration Building, 166 Second St., Monument, 481-2665.

Inaugural Book Sale, a chance to choose from over 2,000 gently used books of all genres to raise money for the Old Colorado City Historical Society. Sat., April 6, 11 a.m. to 4 p.m. $1-$3. Old Colorado City Historic Center, 1 S. 24th St., 636-1225, history.oldcolo.com.

Phoenix Yoga Lounge Book Reading, a reading of *Autobiography of a Yogini* with Kamala Easton. Tues., April 9, 4 p.m. Phoenix Yoga Lounge, 124 Ruxton Ave., Manitou Springs.

Poetry West April Workshop, a reading by Colorado University — Boulder instructor Raza Ali Hasan, with a workshop to follow on "Tracing Your Influence." Sat., April 6, 10 a.m. to noon. CC's Worner Campus Center, 902 N. Cascade Ave., 481-1316, coloradocollege.edu.

The Story Project, as part of the FAC's multidisciplinary *Families* programming, a night of family-themed stories from the mother of an Olympic figure skater, a local musician and others. Fri., April 5, 7:30 p.m. $5. Colorado Springs Fine Arts Center, 30 W. Dale St., csfineartscenter.org.

Museums&Attractions

Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, 4250 Cheyenne Mountain Zoo Road, 633-9925, cmzoo.org/exhibitsAttractions/encounterAfrica. *Encounter Africa "Work-in-Progress" Preview*, a chance to view the elephants and black rhino acclimating to their outdoor exhibit, take photos with life-sized elephant sculptures and see the updated elephant barn before the May 1 grand opening of the exhibit. Through April 30.

The Space Foundation, 4425 Arrowswest Drive, 576-8000, spacefoundation.org/visit. "Audience with an Astronaut: Meet Dr. Leroy Chiao," a chance to hear about life aboard the International Space Station from former NASA astronaut Dr. Leroy Chiao. Sat., April 6, 11 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

SpecialEvents

15th Annual Daddy Daughter Dance, a dance for girls 14 and under to enjoy an evening of dinner and dancing with their father or other male guardian. Fri., April 5, 5 p.m. and Sat., April 6, 5 p.m. $40 per person. Doubletree Hotel, 1775 E. Cheyenne Mountain Blvd., 385-6005, cbrownlow@springsgov.com, tinyurl.com/bmy4wgy.

PICK **29th National Space Symposium,** a special chance to meet nationally acclaimed author and humorist P.J. O'Rourke at this

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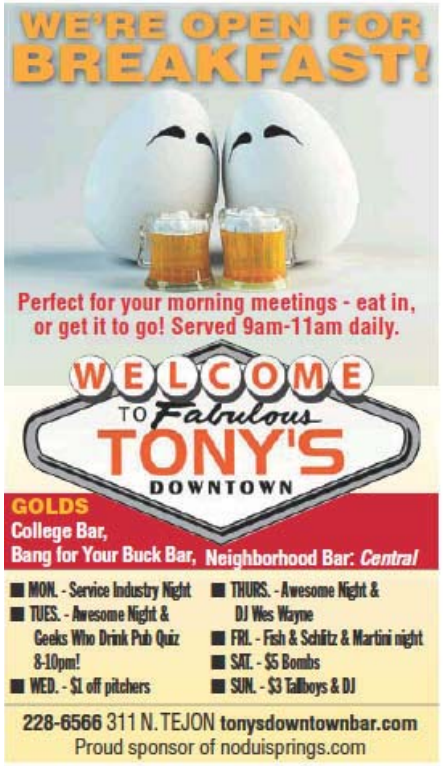

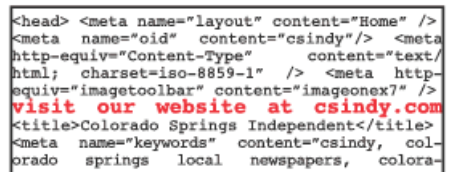

event co-sponsored by Rocky Mountain PBS and the Space Foundation. Tues., April 9, 3 p.m. $150-$500. The Broadmoor, 1 Lake Ave., 634-7711, rmpbs.org/content/index.cfm/fuseaction/showContent/contentID/826/navID/690.

Arts Business Education Luncheon, a celebration of supporters of the arts featuring music, entertainment, awards and more. Reservations required. Wed., April 10, 11:30 a.m. $35. Antlers Hilton, 4 S. Cascade Ave., 238-5065, antlers.com.

Blissfest333 Reborn, a fundraiser for the COS Homeless Project featuring live music, poetry, film screenings, a silent auction and more. Fri., April 5, 6 p.m. Free. Tim Gill Center for Public Media, 315 E. Costilla St., blissfest333.org.

Governor's Summer Job Hunt, a chance for Teller County youth ages 16-21 to meet with potential summer employers. Local businesses interested in booth space at the fair should call or e-mail as soon as possible. Tues., April 9, 1-5 p.m. Ute Pass Cultural Center, 210 E. Midland Ave., Woodland Park, 667-3829, bobgemignani@elpasoco.com, ppwfc.org.

Personal Property Insurance Seminar, a seminar for Waldo Canyon Fire victims offering free, experienced help in documenting and filing for insurance claim reimbursement. E-mail for RSVP and location. Thurs., April 4, 6 p.m. kerriolivier@gmail.com.

Prom Fashion Show, a showcase of prom fashions for men and women, with a live DJ and chances to win prom night giveaways including dress, tux and limo rental. Sat., April 6, 1-3 p.m. Citadel Mall, 750 Citadel Drive East, #3114, 591-5516, shopthecitadel.com.

PICK **Rubik's Cube Tournament,** a competition event open to all ages and skill levels, sponsored by the Mile High Speedcubing group. Sat., April 6, 8 a.m. to 6:15 p.m. $12. Fountain Valley School, 6155 Fountain Valley School Road, 332-8142, cubingusa.com/colorado/index.php.

PICK **Third Annual Spring Awakening Celebration,** a three-day event featuring different types of yoga; concerts from bands like Edith Makes a Paper Chain; art installations, and more. April 5-7. Free. Marmalade at Smokebrush, 219 W. Colorado Ave., #210, 444-1012, smokebrush.org.

Spirituality

Bhagavan Kirtan, a form of yoga for devotion with a call and response style and live music. Sat., April 6, 7:30 p.m. By donation. Movement Arts Community Studio, 525 E. Fountain Blvd., #150, 963-1809, movementartscs.com.

"Classes in Sacred Sciences," a miniseries "on the basic Universal Laws that govern the mind-body system." Saturdays; through May 11. $35-$55. Center for Spiritual Living, 3685 Jeannine Drive, 303/726-9344, creativetransformations.biz.

Freedom Forward, a seminar for singles on breaking free from the past and looking forward to the future. Sat., April 6, 9 a.m. to noon. New Life Church, 11025 Voyager Pkwy., 329-8015, newlifeasinglefocus.wordpress.com/LIVING-SINGLE-SEMINAR.

Pueblo Holistic Fair, two days of workshops, massage, psychic readings, aura pictures and more from Front Range holistic practitioners. Visit website for complete schedule. Sat., April 6, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. and Sun., April 7, 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. $5-8. CSU-Pueblo's Occhiato University Center, 2200 Bonforte Blvd., Pueblo, 719/547-4883, pueblolightconnection@yahoo.com, puebloholisticfair.com.

Sports&Recreation

American Distance Project seeks families willing to host Olympic-hopeful distance runners relocating to Colorado Springs to train with ADP, a locally-based nonprofit. 704/408-6258, americandistanceproject.com.

Cancer Survivor Fitness Program, a basic eight-week strength and conditioning course. Dates/times flexible; call for more information. Ongoing. Phenom 1 Fitness, 1360 N. Academy Blvd., 330-4331, lift4life.org.

Learn to Fence, a series of classes for beginning youth, teens and adults seeking to learn fencing. Equipment is included. 339-5495, frontrangefencing.tripod.com.

The Zombie Hero Workout, a new strength, agility and running fitness program designed to put you in top shape for evading zombies and make you look good while doing it. See website for details and class registration. Mondays, Wednesdays, 5-6:30 p.m. Palmer Park, 3650 Maizeland Road, 291-5924, helpzombies.com/zombie-hero-workout.html.

PICK **Kreuser Gallery,** 218 W. Colorado Ave., 630-6347, abigailkreusergallery.com. *Work by Stan Baldwin and Randal Barbera*, a showcase of photography by Barbera in Kreuser and paintings by Baldwin in the AHA galleries. April 5-30. Opening reception, Fri., April 5, 5-8 p.m.

Stage

Les Misérables, a two-hour performance of the classic by the largest cast the school's theater program has ever had. April 4-13. $6-$13. Pine Creek High School, 10750 Thunder Mountain Ave., 234-2600.

Mary Grace* and *Magdalena's Story, performances from actresses Barbara Summerville and Sue Bachman. April 5-7. $10. First United Methodist Church, 420 N. Nevada Ave., 471-8522, fumc-cs.org.

The Pilgrim's Progress, a marionette version of John Bunyan's classic allegory. Through June 2. Simpich Showcase, 2413 W. Colorado Ave., 465-2492, simpich.com.

The Rope, a production of Eugene O'Neill's cynical reworking of the parable of the prodigal son, performed by PPCC theatre students with the partnership of Springs Ensemble Theatre. Fri., April 5, 7:30 p.m., Sat., April 6, 7:30 p.m. and Sun., April 7, 2 p.m. $5. Springs Ensemble Theatre, 1903 E. Cache la Poudre St., 502-2082, ppcc.edu.

SPANK!, a musical parody of the novel *Fifty Shades of Grey*. Sun., April 7, 6 p.m. $33-$43. Pikes Peak Center, 190 S. Cascade Ave., 520-7469, pikespeakcenter.com.

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StrangerThanFiction

Curses, foiled again

Two weeks after someone stole Briana Priddy's wallet and used her identity to write bad checks, Priddy was waitressing at a restaurant in Lakewood, Colo., when a woman came in with a group, ordered a drink and presented Priddy's stolen ID. "But I didn't say anything," Priddy said. "I handed it back to her and said 'Sure, I'll be right back with your margarita.'" She called police, who arrested the 26-year-old woman. Noting the suspect is old enough to buy a drink with her own ID, police official Steve Davis declared, "Dumb criminal. That's the first [word] that comes to mind. We found some narcotics in this woman's possession, so she's in quite a bit of hot water." (Denver's KUSA-TV)

Police said Michael Oliva, 34, tried to rob a bank in Trimble, Mo., by pointing a gun at a teller and demanding cash. The teller dropped to the floor and shouted for help. Another bank employee saw the masked robber leaning over the counter and pointing his handgun at the teller, so he got a Smith & Wesson .357 revolver from his desk and fired two rounds, one of which struck Oliva in the jaw. He fled, but police caught him and identified his weapon as a plastic toy gun. (Kansas City's WDAF-TV)

What a coincidence

After Florida Transportation Secretary Ananth Prasad was ticketed for driving 44 mph in a 35 zone on a Tallahassee street, the DOT raised the speed limit on the road to 45. Prasad said the change occurred after the DOT conducted a study that showed the previous speed limit "was artificially constrained." (Florida's Capitol News Service)

Gun for a good cause

After raising only $10 last year to buy new equipment, the Atwood-Hammond Little League enlisted the support of the Atwood Armory in Atwood, Ill., to raffle off an AR-15 military-style assault rifle. "It's for a good cause," Atwood Armory co-owner Charidy Butcher said, "for the kids." (Decatur's WAND-TV)

The two-wheeling life

A bicyclists association promoting safety objected to a bill in the Maryland House of Delegates requiring all cyclists to wear helmets. Shane Farthing, executive director of the Washington Area Bicyclist Association, said mandatory helmet use might discourage people from riding bikes and that fewer bikes on the road could limit "the safety-in-numbers effect." (*The Washington Post*)

The Dutch Ministry of Infrastructure and the Environment addressed the issue of bicycle safety by funding research by automaker TNO to develop an exterior airbag. It covers the lower portion of the windshield, creating a softer landing than a pane of glass for a human skull flying through the air at 25 mph. A camera positioned beneath the rear-view mirror can determine if a vehicle is approaching cyclists or pedestrians, and sensors in the bumper activate the airbag if they detect contact. (TNO)

Swedish industrial designers Anna Haupt and Terese Alstin unveiled the Hövding, a concealed bicycle helmet designed to inflate in .01 second in an accident. "We wanted to see if there was a way to change today's helmets and wanted people to wear them by free will, not by law," Haupt said. "We found out people wanted something that was almost invisible that didn't destroy their hair or annoy them, something with the possibility to change the looks of the helmet like they can with mobile phone shells and wigs." Costing $600, the Hövding resembles a collar, but it contains an air bag, similar to the ones in cars. The air bag is shaped like a hood and is triggered when sensors (a combination of accelerometers and gyroscopes) pick up "abnormal movements of a bicyclist in an accident," according to the company's website. (ABC News)

Haberdashery follies

Police said a maintenance man at a Houston apartment building shot a man in the foot after the two argued for 30 minutes about the victim's missing pants. Sgt. M.D. Moses said Michael Jolivette, 32, accused the worker of taking his pants from an electrical box where he left them. (Houston's KPRC-TV)

When a police officer spotted a man walking along a street in Millville, N.J., with smoke coming from his jeans, the officer urged the man to take off the jeans to prevent injury. Lt. Ed Zadroga said the man refused, telling the officer it was too cold. The man was taken to a hospital and then flown to a burn center. Zadroga said the fire probably started when vodka spilled out of a bottle in the man's pocket and was ignited by a lit cigarette. (*South Jersey Times*)

Ride of a lifetime

One man died and another was hurt when the inflatable ball they were harnessed to, bouncing down a ski slope in Russia, veered off course, careened along a jagged ridge and plunged over a precipice. It then picked up speed for almost a mile before slamming into rocks. The victims paid $10 to ride in the plastic ball, called a zorb. The accident at Dombai ski resort followed a rash of injuries, prompting an investigation that found 50 unlicensed operations and guides there. (*The New York Times*)

Small consolation

The U.S. Census Bureau announced it is dropping the word "Negro," used since 1900 to describe black Americans in its surveys, in favor of "black" or "African American." (Associated Press)

Compiled by Roland Sweet. Send clippings, citing source and date, to P.O. Box 8130, Alexandria, VA 22306.

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Medical marijuana news of the week

Watched watchers

Last week, the state auditor released a damning, 89-page report finding that the **Medical Marijuana Enforcement Division** "has not adequately defined the oversight activities it must perform, or determined the resources it needs to implement the regulatory system."

Problems include the failure to implement a much-touted "seed to sale" tracking system, with $1.1 million spent on the effort; awarding business licenses despite red flags like failed background checks; and "large capital purchases" made by the division, such as the $250,000 spent in one year on office furniture.

The *Denver Post* reports that Barbara Brohl, director of the Department of Revenue, which oversees the MMED, has assured shaken legislators that the division is now "pretty fiscally frugal."

Council decides

The city of Colorado Springs has released its tentative timetable for deciding whether to allow recreational-marijuana stores.

City Council will hold a work session at its informal meeting on May 13, and a final discussion June 24. If the city opts out, it would hold readings of its prohibiting ordinance July 9 and 23. If it decides to regulate, readings would be Sept. 10 and 24.

Medical support

The **Colorado Springs Medical Cannabis Council** has issued its recommendations for the coming state regulation of recreational marijuana.

"Those centers [already] in business should have preferential treatment regarding licenses due to all the efforts that [they] have already put in," reads a press release. "This will ... allow the transitioning owners to get their footing."

The trade group also endorses starting with the vertical-integration model — wherein dispensaries, or recreational-marijuana stores, grow the majority of cannabis sold — but with the caveat that owners could modify the arrangement as needed. "FORCED integration has caused many issues that have put so many people out of business (many unwanted FORCED marriages that haven't survived)," it says.

Keef crumbs

• At 5:30 p.m., April 16, Denver attorney Rob Corry will hold a four-hour seminar called **"Colorado Marijuana Business Models,"** at the at Ramada Plaza Denver Central Hotel (4849 Bannock St., Denver, cannabistherapyinstitute.com). The class will cover facets of Amendment 64, potential hemp laws and more; tickets are $295.

• According to the Associated Press, **House Bill 1114**, the THC-DUI legislation, passed out of the House Appropriations Committee on Monday and could see its first vote by the full House by week's end.

— Bryce Crawford

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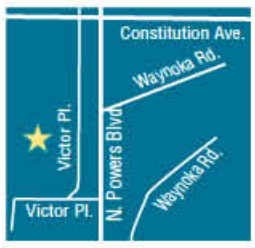

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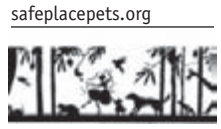

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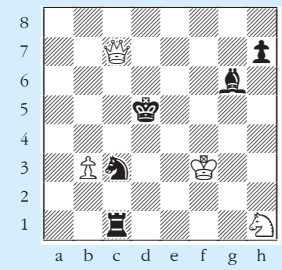

WHITE TO PLAY

Hint: Win the rook.

For puzzle answers, see page 51

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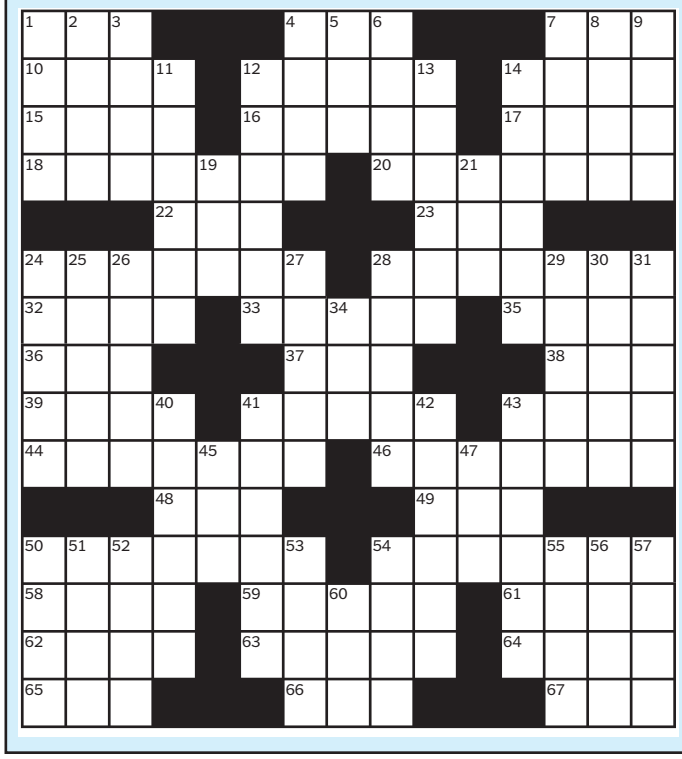

The New York Times Crossword

ACROSS

1, 4 & 7 Both sides … or the missing starts for all the remaining Across answers
10 Plot
12 Stops working
14 For free
15 Manuscript reviewer
16 Talk
17 Disclose
18 Walks
20 Like some explosions and substances
22 German toast
23 Bowl-shaped part of the ear
24 Moral sense
28 Traffic
32 Atom parts
33 Ban
35 Study of verse
36 Some golf events
37 Family name on "Roseanne"
38 Singer Stevens
39 Characterized by
41 Solidifies
43 Be made up (of)
44 Hinders
46 Squeezes
48 Iran-___
49 1997 Nicolas Cage/John Malkovich thriller
50 Ones jacking up prices, maybe
54 Declared publicly
58 Bit of mountain flora
59 Introduction
61 Signify
62 Big shells
63 Associates
64 Show
65 For a while
66 French tales
67 "Now!"

DOWN

1 ___-Penh
2 Rampant
3 Something you might get your mitts on
4 "___ Death" (Grieg work)
5 Conjunction that's usually part of a pair
6 Tidy up, in a way
7 Cobra's shape, at times
8 French wave
9 Declined
11 Clears the board
12 Complain
13 Group of three rhyming lines
14 They're a couple short of C notes
19 Cacophony
21 Quaker cereal
24 Laurel and Lee
25 Astronomer's sighting
26 Orch. member
27 German article
28 Ladies in waiting?
29 Like some columns
30 Keats, for one
31 Some Security Council votes
34 "___ pal"
40 Pictures of the Old West
41 Twists into a knot
42 Loses freshness
43 Fathering
45 Dander
47 Narrow waterway
50 Half of a best-seller list: Abbr.
51 "___ hollers, let …"
52 Overflow (with)
53 Shade of black
54 Skips, as class
55 Early time
56 Conseil d'___
57 Show, informally
60 Test for an M.A. seeker

For puzzle answers, please see pg. 51

From NYT Syndicate

AdviceGoddess

By Amy Alkon

The math to true love

You need to tell men to never be the first to say those "three little words." A woman will tell you she's ready to hear them by telling you first. It seems the dating gurus agree: When a man says "I love you" first, he throws the attraction physics all off because he lowers his value in the woman's subconscious. — Concerned Guy

When you're looking into a woman's eyes and there's that awkward moment of silence, there are plenty of things you can say besides "I love you" — like, "I was going to say something, but now I'm not" or "Have I told you I've started drinking the blood of freshly killed unicorns?"

It is wise to avoid spewing mush all over a woman on, say, the third date. The premature "I love you" tends to translate as "I really don't know you, beyond how you like your steak, but I love any woman who doesn't block my calls or spot me coming down the sidewalk and duck into a real estate office and beg them to hide her." But what really lowers a man's "value in the woman's subconscious" is being someone who needs a "dating guru" to help him be calculating; he can't just *be*.

Women value men who don't seem to be living by others' dictates — men who are spontaneous and fun and don't have a faraway look in their eyes because they're trying to recall something they heard on some dating webinar.

Having value in a woman's eyes takes having value in your own.

Now, a lot of men have childhoods that don't exactly lead them to walk the planet feeling like they own the place. So, it's understandable if you began your dating life as a wimpy, approval-seeking suckup, but if you continue along those lines, you're a *lazy,* wimpy, approval-seeking suckup.

Having value in a woman's eyes takes having value in your own, which takes doing the work to develop self-respect instead of just fencing off that huge sinkhole in your self so no squirrels or neighborhood dogs fall in.

Once you have self-respect, it'll seem ridiculous to pull out some dating calculus book to figure out what to say to a woman and when. The right words will just flow at the right time out of genuine feeling that's developed between you. Sure, there's always that chance that some woman who seemed into you will have an attack of the commitment heebies or decide that she doesn't feel the same way.

If you're more of a man's man than a worm's worm, this won't be a statement on your worth. It's just a sign that you need to look for a woman who wants you as much as you want her. If you're secure, chances are you'll eventually find a partner who won't want to leave you — and not just because you always open the door for her when she gets that look in her eye that says, "I can't wait one more moment to pee on the neighbors' rosebushes."

Overthinking of you

My fiancé and I split up three months ago. Our relationship was serious and lovely, but we just weren't feeling it anymore. We are friendly and communicate frequently but avoid awkward topics — like dating other people. We're in the same industry, and I would hate for someone to snap a picture of me and a date and put it on Facebook for him to stumble on. Wouldn't it be better if he learned I'm seeing somebody else from me, and vice versa? — Tiptoeing Forward

Can't you just let him get his information about you the old-fashioned way, by sneaking over with a tall ladder and peering through your blinds? Dating other people after ending an engagement *is* an awkward topic — which seems the perfect reason to continue to avoid discussing it with your now ex-fiancé.

But say somebody does snap a picture of you and a date and toss it up on Facebook. Unless your ex has only 12 Facebook friends or he's monitoring Facebook like a bald eagle hovering over a prairie rat, he might miss the photo. And even if he does see it, assuming it doesn't involve tongue, who's to say whether it's you and your next candidate for fiancé or you and some guy who happened to drop by your office?

Although you two "weren't feeling it anymore" and it's natural that you'd both be looking to feel it with other people, once you've loved somebody, you probably can't help but feel a little pang at the thought of them blithely falling into the arms of somebody else. So, maybe consider ambiguity a gift — one that lets you believe the deadening silence between you is the sound of him in his garage building a drone camera to spy on your every move.

***Got a problem? Write Amy Alkon, 171 Pier Ave., #280, Santa Monica, CA 90405, or e-mail adviceamy@aol.com (advicegoddess.com). Alkon is the author of* I See Rude People: One Woman's Battle To Beat Some Manners Into Impolite Society.**

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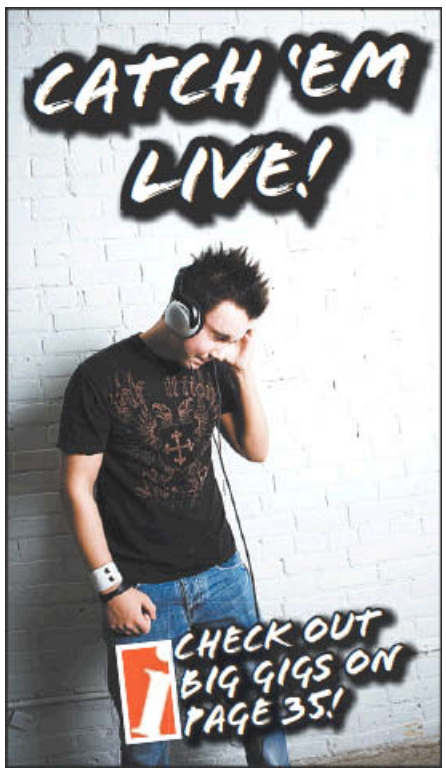

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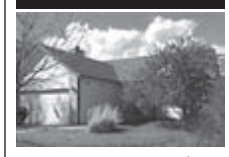

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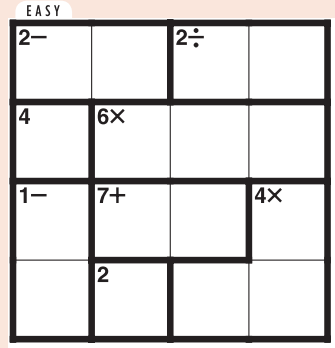
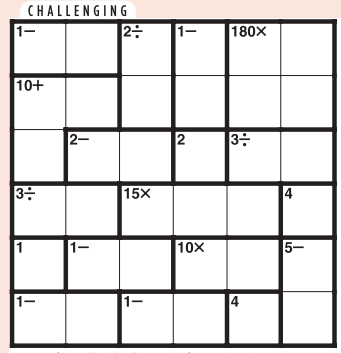


CHALLENGING



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Fill the grid with digits so as not to repeat a number in any row or column, and so that the digits within each heavily outlined cage will produce the target number show by using addition, subtraction, multiplication or division. A 4x4 grid uses the digits 1,2,3,4, while a 6x6 grid uses the numbers 1-6.

For puzzle answers, see page 51

RULES

1. Each row and each column must contain the numbers 1 through 4 (easy) or 1 through 6 (challenging) without repeating.
2. The numbers within the heavily outlined boxes, called cages, must combine using the given operation (in any order) to produce the target numbers in the top-left corners.
3. Freebies: Fill in single-box cages with the number in the top-left corner.

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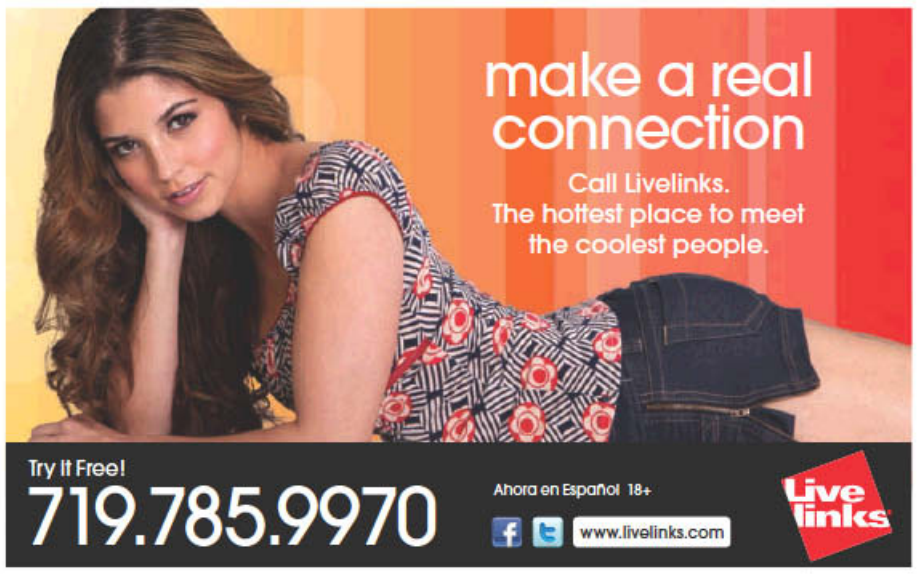

SUDOKU

2	6	7	8	9	1	4	5	3
9	1	4	5	7	3	8	6	2
8	3	5	6	2	4	7	9	1
6	5	9	7	3	2	1	4	8
7	8	1	9	4	5	3	2	6
4	2	3	1	6	8	9	7	5
3	7	8	2	5	9	6	1	4
1	9	2	4	8	6	5	3	7
5	4	6	3	1	7	2	8	9

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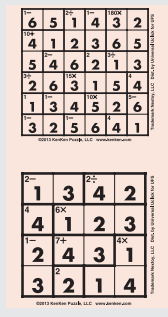

Crossword

P	R	O			A	N	D			C	O	N
N	I	V	E		K	S	O	U	T		B	O	N	O
O	F	E	R		V	E	R	S	E		F	I	D	E
M	E	N	A	D	E	S		T	R	O	L	L	E	D
			S	I	T				C	H	A			
S	C	I	E	N	C	E		G	E	S	T	I	O	N
T	O	N	S		H	I	B	I	T		S	O	D	Y
A	M	S				N	E	R				N	I	E
N	E	T	O		G	E	A	L	S		S	I	S	T
S	T	R	A	I	N	S		S	T	R	I	C	T	S
			T	R	A				A	I	R			
F	I	T	E	E	R	S		C	L	A	I	M	E	D
I	F	E	R		L	O	G	U	E		N	O	T	E
C	H	E	S		S	O	R	T	S		G	R	A	M
T	E	M			T	E	S				N	T	O	

CHESS QUIZ

From page 47:

1. Qc4ch! Ke5 (or … Kd6)
2. Qf4ch wins the rook.

FreeWillAstrology

By Rob Brezsny

ARIES (March 21-April 19): "Art cannot be modern," said Austrian painter Egon Schiele. "Art is primordially eternal." I love that idea. Not all of the artifacts called "art" fit that scrupulous definition, of course. Katy Perry's music and the film *Wreck It Ralph* may have some entertainment value, but they're not primordially eternal. I bring this up, Aries, because I think you have entered a particularly wild and timeless phase of your own development. Whether or not you are literally an artist, you have a mandate to create your life story as a primordially eternal work of art.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): "All my best ideas come from having no answer," said pioneer filmmaker John Cassavetes, "from not knowing." I hope that testimony cheers you up, Taurus. As hard as it may be for you to imagine, you are on the verge of a breakthrough. As you surf the chaotic flow and monitor the confusing hubbub, you are brewing the perfect conditions for an outburst of creativity. Rejoice in the blessing of not knowing!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): *Sant* is a Hindi word that comes from a Sanskrit verb meaning "to be good" and "to be real." Personally, I know a lot of people who are either real or good. But few are both. The good ones tend to be overly polite, and the real ones don't put a high priority on being nice. So here's your assignment, Gemini: to be good and real; to have compassionate intentions even as you conduct yourself with a high degree of authenticity; to bestow blessings everywhere you go while at the same time being honest and clear and deep. According to my reading of the astrological omens, you have the power to pull off this strenuous feat.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Let's take a look back at the first three months of 2013. How have you been doing? If I'm reading the astrological markers accurately, you have jettisoned a portion of the psychic gunk that had accumulated in you during the past six years. You have partially redeemed the shadowy side of your nature and you have to some degree ripened the most immature part. There's also the matter of your heart. You have managed some healing of a wound that had festered there for a long time. So here's my question for you: Is it possible for you to do more of this good work? The target date for completion is your birthday.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Naturalist Charles Darwin formulated the theory of evolution, which has been one of history's most influential hypotheses. A crucial event in his early development as a scientist was a five-year boat trip he took around the world when he was in his 20s. The research he conducted along the way seeded many of his unique ideas. The writing he did established his reputation as a noteworthy author. And yet before his journey, his father tried to talk him out of embarking, calling it a "wild scheme" and "a useless undertaking." Did your parents or other authorities ever have a similar response to one of your brilliant projects? If so, now would be a good time to heal the wound caused by their opposition.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): I've got three sets of affirmations for you, Virgo. Say them out loud and see if they might work for you. 1. "I will be engrossed in fascinating experiences that feed my curiosity, but I will not be obsessed with grueling frustrations that drain my energy." 2. "I will be committed to love if it opens my eyes and heart, but I will not be infatuated with maddening conundrums that jiggle my fear." 3. "I will give myself freely to learning opportunities that offer me valuable lessons I can use to improve my life, but I will be skeptical toward rough-edged tests that ask far more from me than they offer in return."

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): "Pole of inaccessibility" is a term that explorers use to identify places on the Earth that are hard — and interesting! — to get to. On each continent, it's usually considered to be the spot that's farthest from the coastline. For instance, there's a pole of inaccessibility near the frozen center of Antarctica. Its elevation is over 12,000 feet and it has the planet's coldest average temperatures. As for the oceanic pole of inaccessibility, it's an area in the South Pacific that's most remote from land. By my reckoning, Libra, you would benefit from identifying what your own personal version of this point is, whether it's literal or metaphorical. I think it's also a great time to transform your relationship with it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Every April, the ancient Romans celebrated a festival known as Robigalia. Among the rites they performed were ceremonies to exorcize the god of rust and mildew. I suggest you consider reviving that old practice, Scorpio. You would benefit from spending a few days waging war against insidious rot. You could start by scrubbing away all the sludge, scum and gunk from your home, car and workplace. Next, make a similar effort on a metaphorical level. Scour the muck, glop and grime out of your psyche.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): "You know that place between sleep and awake, the place where you can still remember dreaming? That's where I'll always love you. That's where I'll be waiting." Tinkerbell says that to Peter Pan in J.M. Barrie's famous story. Sometime soon, I think you should whisper words like those to a person or animal you love. It's time for you to be as romantic and lyrical as possible. You need to bestow and attract the nourishment that comes from expressing extravagant tenderness. For even better results, add this sweetness from French poet Paul Valéry: "I am what is changing secretly in you." And try this beauty from Walt Whitman: "We were together. I forget the rest."

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Naturalist John Muir (1838-1914) had an ecstatic relationship with the California wilderness. He studied it as a scientist and he worshiped it as a mystical devotee. During the course of his communion with the glaciers and peaks of the Sierra Nevada mountains, he came close to seeing them as living entities that evolved over long periods of time. "Glaciers move in tides," he wrote. "So do mountains. So do all things." With Muir as your inspiration, I invite you to identify the very gradual currents and tides that have flowed for years through your own life, Capricorn. It's prime time to deepen your understanding and appreciation of the big, slow-moving cycles that have brought you to where you are today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): American author William Faulkner won a Nobel Prize for literature, an indication that he had abundant talent. The prose he wrote was often experimental, cerebral and complex. He was once asked what he would say to readers who found it difficult to grasp his meaning "even after reading it two or three times." His reply: "Read it four times." My counsel to you, Aquarius, is similar. When faced with a challenging event or situation that taxes your understanding, keep working to understand it even past the point where you would normally quit. There will be rewards, I promise.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): "Dear Rob: I just consulted an astrologer, and he told me that my planets are very weak because they're in the wrong houses and have bad aspects. Please tell me what this means. Am I cursed? Is there any way to remedy my afflictions? — Paranoid Pisces." Dear Pisces: Whoever told you that nonsense is an incompetent astrologer. You shouldn't heed him. There's no such thing as one's planets being weak or being in the wrong houses or having bad aspects. There may be challenges, but those are also opportunities. Luckily, the coming weeks will be prime time for you Pisceans to overthrow the influence of inept "experts" and irresponsible authorities like him. Reclaim your power to define your own fate from anyone who has stolen it from you.

HOMEWORK: Imagine a bedtime story you'd like to hear and the person you'd like to hear it from. Testify at freewillastrology.com.

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EndZone

By Ralph Routon

Rox looking better, but not good

If you watched the Colorado Rockies at all during spring training, you almost couldn't help but like them.

How could fans not be pulling for shortstop **Troy Tulowitzki** to regain his All-Star form? Who wouldn't enjoy seeing whether catcher **Wilin Rosario** can duplicate his superlative rookie numbers (31 homers, 79 runs batted in)? And wouldn't any purist be glad to continue appreciating the constant, all-out effort of veteran **Michael Cuddyer**, not to mention watching to see how the ever-popular **Walt Weiss** fares as Colorado's manager? And despite **Todd Helton**'s recent stumble, being arrested for driving under the influence, how could anyone not want the veteran first baseman to end his Hall of Fame-worthy career on a positive note?

All that, and we haven't even mentioned outfielders **Carlos Gonzalez** and **Dexter Fowler**, infielders **Josh Rutledge** and **Chris Nelson**, and the return of backup catcher **Yorvit Torrealba**.

That's an everyday lineup of position players good enough to hold their own against most of the National League.

But not good enough to make up for Colorado's starting pitchers (and weak bullpen). In fact, not even close.

The rotation starts with **Jhoulys Chacin**, who has slid from promising to disappointing and now a lackluster spring after starting just 14 games in 2012 amid shoulder troubles. Making him the No. 1 starter is a huge gamble, if not a setup for failure. He's followed by **Jorge De La Rosa** and **Juan Nicasio**, both coming off injuries and better suited to be Nos. 4 and 5, not 2 and 3.

From there, the Rockies start the season with veterans **Jeff Francis** and **Jon Garland**, with Francis having won six, six, four and four games in recent years. Garland was out of baseball in 2012, after going 1-5 in 2011 for the Los Angeles Dodgers. I'm trying to remember any major-league team with such a disparity between its regular lineup and its pitching rotation.

Nothing comes to mind. Let's put it this way: Assume that all five of those starters come through this year, at least reaching their expectations. In other words, Chacin and De La Rosa tally perhaps 12 wins each, Nicasio and Francis close to 10, Garland with six or seven. That would add up to about 50 victories for the rotation.

Now consider the San Francisco Giants. Their starters combined for 73 victories last season and 93 quality starts (at least six innings, allowing no more than three earned runs), and they should be around 70 wins this season. As for the Los Angeles Dodgers, with two strong additions in **Zack Greinke** and South Korean star **Hyun-Jin Ryu**, it's not unrealistic to think their starters could produce 70 victories as well.

That puts Colorado about 20 games behind the Giants and Dodgers, before we even talk about bullpens. (And the Rockies' relievers failed them on their Opening Day loss at Milwaukee.) That's why the outside world views the Rockies as having no chance to challenge in the National League West.

Some forecasts have put Colorado fourth in the division, ahead of San Diego. Others have the Padres fourth and the Rockies at the bottom.

There's another way to assess the year ahead, coming off that terrible 64-98 disaster of a year ago, finishing 30 games out of first in the NL West. This team could improve by 12 wins, with a record of 76-86, and still have no chance.

Expect a lot of 8-4 and 10-6 games this summer. And a lot of unhappy endings.

— routon@csindy.com

SPORTS SHOT

Ice surprise After placing six teams in the NCAA Tournament, the Western Collegiate Hockey Association will have only St. Cloud State in the Frozen Four, along with Yale, Quinnipiac and UMass-Lowell.

Early odds Alabama is the early 5-2 favorite at vegasinsider.com to win another college football national title, followed by Ohio State at 6-1 and Oregon at 7-1; Notre Dame, by the way, is 25-1.

Firing watch As the Colorado Avalanche began this week tied for the fewest points (28) in the National Hockey League, the only question was whether head coach Joe Sacco would be fired after the season ends, or sooner.

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RangerRich

By Rich Tosches

Shadow of a drought

I am standing over my desk, looking down at a map from the National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration. The middle, from South Dakota to Texas and west to parts of Colorado, is covered in bright red blotches, indicating:

a) Those areas are in extreme or exceptional drought, forcing cities and towns, including our village, to implement strict water-use regulations.

b) America's heartland is still embarrassed after voting for **Mitt Romney**.

c) I gave an honest answer to my wife's question about whether her new jeans make her butt look big ("Not any more than usual, my honey muffin!"), took a heavy and unexpected blow to the nose from a lemonade pitcher as a reward for being so stupid, and am now bleeding profusely.

d) Mayor **Steve Bach** is an arrogant dimwit who is ruining our village.

The correct answer, of course, is A. (D is unrelated in any way to the drought/map question, but I enjoyed writing it.)

Anyway, today we will talk about the drought and this year's water restrictions for our town and how the Broadmoor, where Mayor Bach likes to play golf, will continue to flood its courses and have a rice-growing contest.

The Broadmoor will hold a rice-growing contest.

Actually, after a controversy during our drought a decade ago, when the Broadmoor used millions of gallons of drinking-quality water in a secret deal with the city, it now uses only non-potable water for its courses — and, we hope, for Mayor Bach's drinks.

Here's the latest from scientists and climatologists of the NOAA and National Weather Service: "Persistence is expected for much of Colorado, New Mexico, Utah, Nevada, and Arizona due to low snow-water equivalent values (around 75% of normal) and below average streamflows forecast for the spring and early summer."

Translation: Our long drought is likely to continue barring the intervention of **Jesus** himself, who is, sadly, tied up with more important things such as trying to get the new, rich, anorexic-looking **Sarah Palin** to eat a sandwich.

Here you may be wondering, "So, **Ray**, how do these science and weather people come up with this information?" From the NOAA and NWS report:

"Tools used in the U.S. Drought Outlook (USDO) included the official CPC temperature and precipitation outlooks for April 2013 and April through June 2013 ... models such as the 5-day and experimental 7-day WPC precipitation totals ... the NAEFS precipitation outlooks, the soil moisture tools based on the Constructed Analog on Soil (CAS) moisture ..."

As I understand it, when all that fails, the head climatologist, **Roger,** sticks a finger into the fur of Luke the NOAA Science Squirrel to determine its thickness and thus the chances of cold and rainy weather.

What's it all mean here in Possum Hollow? Well, as of this past Monday, residential customers with even-numbered addresses may water only on Wednesdays and Sundays. Odd-numbered addresses get Tuesdays and Saturdays.

How about car washing? Well, you can do it in your driveway on your designated watering days and also on Saturday and Sunday, but you are required to use a bucket and have a shut-off nozzle on your hose.

However, as older people such as Mayor Bach have likely already discovered, sometimes the shut-off nozzle on your hose doesn't work like it used to.

Rich Tosches (rangerrich@csindy.com) also writes a Sunday column in the Denver Post.

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